**India I Equities** 

Retail
Company Update

Change in Estimates □ Target ☑ Reco ☑

5 April 2024

## **Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail**

Step in the right direction; upgrading to a Buy

We believe hiving off its cash generating business, Madura, is a step in the right direction for ABFRL: it simplifies its business structure and betters capital allocation. The Madura entity has four industry-leading power brands with high profitability, RoCE and strong cash generation. Further re-rating is on the cards once we have a clearer capital allocation strategy. We upgrade our rating to a Buy with a higher TP of Rs294, ~14x FY26e EV/EBITDA (earlier ~12x FY26e EV/EBITDA). The demerged ABFRL entity (housing Pantaloons, ethnic, D2C and luxury brands) comprises the mostly loss-making businesses and a large part of the debt.

Hiving off its Madura Fashion & Lifestyle business. This would help unlock value-creation opportunities and craft a well-articulated capital allocation strategy for the two entities. All ABFRL shareholders will have identical shareholdings in the newly formed entity.

Post-demerger structure. The resultant entity would comprise the four Lifestyle brands (Louis Phillippe, Van Heusen, Allen Solly, Peter England), casual-wear brands (Forever 21, American Eagle), Reebok and innerwear (Van Heusen). The de-merged ABFRL will consist of value retail (Pantaloons, Style Up), the ethnic portfolio (incl. TCNS), digital brands under TMRW and luxury brands. As the lifestyle business was the cash cow, the de-merged ABFRL would have to raise capital in the next 12 months for growth.

**Valuation.** We upgrade our rating to a Buy with a 12-mth sum-of-parts TP of Rs294. We assign Rs254/sh to the resultant Madura entity, valuing the Lifestyle brands at 15x FY26e EV/EBITDA (12.5x earlier) and Rs40/sh to the residual ABFRL businesses valuing Pantaloons/TCNS at respectively 10.5x/10x FY26e EV/EBITDA (unchanged). At the CMP, the stock would trade at a combined 15.8x/12.2x FY25e/FY26e EV/EBITDA. **Risks:** Keen competition denting revenue growth, slower turnaround for the newer initiatives, mounting debt.

| Key financials (YE Mar)               | FY22   | FY23    | FY24e   | FY25e   | FY26e   |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|
| Sales (Rs m)                          | 81,362   | 124,179 | 141,742 | 159,331 | 180,779 |  |  |
| Net profit (Rs m)                     | (1,184)  | (595)   | (6,085) | (2,539) | 101     |  |  |
| EPS (Rs)                              | (1.3)  | (0.6)   | (6.0)   | (2.5)   | 0.1     |  |  |
| P/E (x)                               | NA   | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      |  |  |
| EV / EBITDA (x)                       | 28.8   | 18.9    | 21.5    | 15.8    | 12.2    |  |  |
| P/BV (x)                              | 10.2   | 6.7     | 5.8     | 6.2     | 6.1     |  |  |
| RoE (%)                               | (4.4)  | (1.9)   | (16.2)  | (6.3)   | 0.3     |  |  |
| RoCE (%)                              | 2.2  | 4.0     | (1.4)   | 1.7     | 6.2     |  |  |
| Dividend yield (%)                    | -  | -       | -       | -       | -       |  |  |
| Net debt / equity (x)                 | 0.2  | 0.4     | 0.7     | 0.8     | 0.7     |  |  |
| Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research | Note: Estimates are as reported, i.e., adjusted for IND-AS 116 |         |         |         |         |  |  |

Rating: **Buy**Target Price (12-mth): Rs.294
Share Price: Rs.237

| Key data           | ABFRL IN / PNTA.BO  |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 52-week high / low | Rs266 / 184         |
| Sensex / Nifty     | 74248 / 22514       |
| 3-m average volume | \$19.3m             |
| Market cap         | Rs241bn / \$2892.2m |
| Shares outstanding | 1015m               |

| Shareholding pattern (%) | Mar'23 | Dec'23 | Sept'23 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Promoters                | 52.1   | 55.7   | 55.7    |
| - of which, Pledged      | -      | -      | -       |
| Free float               | 47.9   | 44.3   | 44.3    |
| - Foreign institutions   | 19.6   | 14.2   | 14.1    |
| - Domestic institutions  | 14.9   | 17.1   | 17.1    |
| - Public                 | 13.4   | 13.0   | 13.1    |



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Anand Rathi Research India Equities

## **Quick Glance – Financials and Valuations**

| Fig 1 – Income statement (Rs m) |         |         |         |         |         |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|
| Year-end: Mar                   | FY22    | FY23    | FY24e   | FY25e   | FY26e   |  |  |  |
| Net revenues                    | 81,362  | 124,179 | 141,742 | 159,331 | 180,779 |  |  |  |
| Growth (%)                      | 55.0    | 52.6    | 14.1    | 12.4    | 13.5    |  |  |  |
| Direct costs                    | 37,202  | 55,520  | 63,784  | 72,496  | 82,254  |  |  |  |
| SG&A                            | 33,161  | 53,723  | 63,412  | 66,844  | 73,089  |  |  |  |
| EBITDA                          | 10,999  | 14,936  | 14,546  | 19,992  | 25,436  |  |  |  |
| EBITDA margins (%)              | 13.5    | 12.0    | 10.3    | 12.5    | 14.1    |  |  |  |
| Depreciation                    | 9,970   | 12,270  | 15,618  | 18,363  | 19,533  |  |  |  |
| Other income                    | 1,006   | 1,165   | 1,737   | 1,572   | 1,414   |  |  |  |
| Interest expenses               | 3,507   | 4,724   | 7,743   | 6,694   | 7,320   |  |  |  |
| PBT                             | (1,473) | (893)   | (7,078) | (3,494) | (4)     |  |  |  |
| Effective tax rates (%)         | 18.3    | 27.9    | 13.1    | 25.0    | 25.0    |  |  |  |
| + Associates / (Minorities)     | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       |  |  |  |
| Net income                      | (1,184) | (595)   | (6,085) | (2,539) | 101     |  |  |  |
| Adjusted income                 | (1,184) | (595)   | (6,085) | (2,539) | 101     |  |  |  |
| WANS                            | 938     | 949     | 1,015   | 1,015   | 1,015   |  |  |  |
| FDEPS (Rs)                      | (1.3)   | (0.6)   | (6.0)   | (2.5)   | 0.1     |  |  |  |
| FDEPS growth (%)                | (84.3)  | (50.3)  | 856.8   | (58.3)  | (104.0) |  |  |  |
| Gross margins (%)               | 54.3    | 55.3    | 55.0    | 54.5    | 54.5    |  |  |  |
| Note: Figures are as reported   |         |         |         |         |         |  |  |  |

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|------------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|--------|---------|
| Year-end: Mar                      | FY22    | FY23        | FY24e      | FY25e  | FY26e   |
| PBT (adj for int. exp.& other inc) | 1,964   | 3,797       | 743        | 3,309  | 7,455   |
| + Non-cash items                   | 7,475   | 11,658      | 15,618     | 18,363 | 19,533  |
| Oper. prof. before WC              | 9,439   | 15,455      | 16,361     | 21,672 | 26,988  |
| - Incr. / (decr.) in WC            | (230)   | 9,118       | 4,087      | 2,665  | (1,595) |
| Others incl. taxes                 | 164     | (25)        | (915)      | (846)  | 34      |
| Operating cash-flow                | 9,505   | 6,362       | 13,189     | 19,854 | 28,549  |
| - Capex (tang. + intang.)          | 3,185   | 6,708       | 8,000      | 7,000  | 7,000   |
| Free cash-flow                     | 6,321   | (346)       | 5,189      | 12,854 | 21,549  |
| Acquisitions                       | -       | (1,757)     | (16,500)   | -      | -       |
| - Div. (incl. buyback & taxes)     | -       | -           | -          | -      | -       |
| + Equity raised                    | 2,476   | 7,728       | 14,250     | (0)    | 0       |
| + Debt raised                      | 960     | 9,883       | 8,000      | 3,500  | (4,000) |
| - Fin investments                  | 2,436   | (4,490)     | (1,000)    | -      | -       |
| - Misc. (CFI + CFF)                | 8,599   | 14,253      | 17,526     | 16,478 | 17,104  |
| Net cash-flow                      | (1,279) | 5,745       | (5,587)    | (124)  | 446     |
| Source: Company, Anand Rathi Resea | arch No | te: Figures | are as rep | orted  |         |

Fig 5 - Price movement



| Fig 2 – Balance sheet       | (Rs m)  |        |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year-end: Mar               | FY22    | FY23   | FY24e   | FY25e   | FY26e   |
| Share capital               | 9,383   | 9,488  | 10,146  | 10,146  | 10,146  |
| Net worth                   | 27,733  | 33,433 | 41,598  | 39,059  | 39,160  |
| Debt                        | 12,323  | 23,055 | 31,055  | 34,555  | 30,555  |
| Minority interest           | 152     | 27     | 27      | 27      | 27      |
| DTL / (Assets)*             | 24,876  | 38,588 | 38,588  | 38,588  | 38,588  |
| Capital employed            | 65,085  | 95,104 | 111,269 | 112,230 | 108,330 |
| Net tangible assets**       | 31,541  | 46,326 | 64,491  | 62,411  | 59,161  |
| Net intangible assets       | 6,940   | 13,935 | 14,435  | 14,935  | 15,435  |
| Goodwill                    | 22,092  | 23,297 | 23,297  | 23,297  | 23,297  |
| CWIP (tang. & intang.)      | 1,051   | 2,074  | 2,074   | 2,074   | 2,074   |
| Investments (strategic)     | 759     | 842    | 842     | 842     | 842     |
| Investments (financial)     | 6,081   | 1,824  | 824     | 824     | 824     |
| Current assets (excl. cash) | 50,591  | 71,021 | 71,065  | 77,701  | 85,684  |
| Cash                        | 1,205   | 7,011  | 1,424   | 1,300   | 1,745   |
| Current liabilities         | 55,176  | 71,224 | 67,182  | 71,153  | 80,731  |
| Working capital             | (4,585) | (204)  | 3,883   | 6,548   | 4,953   |
| Capital deployed            | 65,085  | 95,104 | 111,269 | 112,230 | 108,330 |
| Contingent liabilities      | -       | -      | -       | -       | _       |
|                             |         |        |         |         |         |

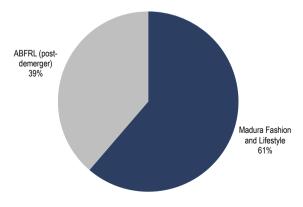
Fig 4 - Ratio analysis

Note: Figures are as reported \* including lease liabilities

| Year-end: Mar                       | FY22      | FY23         | FY24e       | FY25e     | FY26e    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| P/E (x)                             | NA        | NA           | NA          | NA        | NA       |
| EV / EBITDA (x)                     | 28.8      | 18.9         | 21.5        | 15.8      | 12.2     |
| EV / Sales (x)                      | 3.9       | 2.3          | 2.2         | 2.0       | 1.7      |
| P/B (x)                             | 10.2      | 6.7          | 5.8         | 6.2       | 6.1      |
| RoE (%)                             | (4.4)     | (1.9)        | (16.2)      | (6.3)     | 0.3      |
| RoCE (%) - after tax                | 2.2       | 4.0          | (1.4)       | 1.7       | 6.2      |
| RoIC (%) - after tax                | 2.6       | 4.8          | (1.6)       | 1.7       | 6.4      |
| DPS (Rs)                            | -         | -            | -           | -         | -        |
| Dividend yield (%)                  | -         | -            | -           | -         | -        |
| Dividend payout (%) - incl. DDT     | -         | -            | -           | -         | -        |
| Net debt / equity (x)               | 0.2       | 0.4          | 0.7         | 0.8       | 0.7      |
| Receivables (days)                  | 34        | 26           | 35          | 35        | 35       |
| Inventory (days)                    | 131       | 124          | 110         | 105       | 100      |
| Payables (days)                     | 153       | 113          | 110         | 100       | 100      |
| CFO: PAT %                          | (803.1) ( | 1,069.8)     | (216.8)     | (781.8) 2 | 28,340.4 |
| Source: Company, Anand Rathi Resear | rch Note  | e: Figures a | are as repo | rted      |          |

\*\* including right-to-use assets

Fig 6 – MFL accounted for 61% of total revenues (FY23)



Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

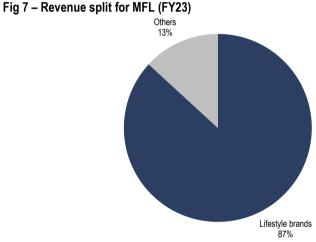
## **De-merger details**

The company's proposed hiving off of its Madura Fashion & Lifestyle business would create two listed entities with distinct capital structures and parallel value-creation opportunities.

## **Madura Fashion and Lifestyle brands**

The resultant Madura Fashion & Lifestyle (MFL) will consist of lifestyle brands (Louis Phillippe, Van Heusen, Allen Solly, Peter England), casual wear brands (American Eagle, Forever 21), sportswear brand Reebok and the innerwear business under Van Heusen.

We believe the lifestyle brands of MFL will account for most of the revenue (87% in FY23) and almost all of EBITDA.

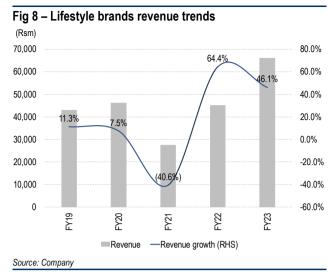


Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

The **Lifestyle brands** have reported an 11% revenue CAGR over FY19-23, led by network expansion, brand extension and healthy comparable growth. It has reported average EBITDA margin of ~16% over FY20-23, led by premiumisation, a change in the channel mix and cost control measures. 9M FY24 revenue dropped 1.5% y/y to Rs50bn while the margin expanded 249bps y/y to 19.6%.

Channel-wise, the retail contribution rose to 51% in FY23 (vs. 39% in FY19), others (incl. e-commerce and exports) 27% (19%) while the wholesale contribution fell to 22% (41%). The store network increased from 1,980 in FY19 to 2,650 in FY23, an 8% store expansion CAGR. Avg. space per EBO was 1,340 sq. ft. in FY23. 46 stores (net) were added in 9M FY24, taking the total to 2,696 across a retail area of 3.7m sq. ft. The company is pruning its store network by shutting poor-performing stores.

It continued to focus on premiumisation and casualisation as its strategic growth levers along with product innovation and markdown management. It has also been focusing on building brand extensions as a growth lever on the launch of new categories such as the premium sneaker range in Louis Phillipe.





| Fig 10 – Lifestyle brands key performance indicators |       |       |        |       |       |  |  |
|--|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--|--|
|  | FY19  | FY20  | FY21   | FY22  | FY23  |  |  |
| Walk-ins (m)   | 7.9   | 7.0   | 3.9    | 4.3   | 9.5   |  |  |
| Conversion, %  | 50.0  | 55.0  | 83.0   | 89.0  | 90.0  |  |  |
| Avg. selling price (ASP) (Rs/piece)                  | 1,714 | 1,626 | 1,680  | 1,701 | 1,881 |  |  |
| Avg. bill value (ABV) (Rs)                           | 4,256 | 4,072 | 3,693  | 3,844 | 4,576 |  |  |
| Items per bill (no.)                                 | 2.5   | 2.5   | 2.2    | 2.3   | 2.4   |  |  |
| LTL volume growth, %                                 | 4.0   | 3.0   | (9.0)  | 25.0  | 26.0  |  |  |
| LTL ASP growth, %                                    | 1.0   | 1.0   | (11.0) | 16.0  | 12.0  |  |  |
| LTL value growth, %                                  | 5.3   | 4.5   | (19.6) | 46.0  | 40.0  |  |  |
| Source: Company                                      |       |       |        |       |       |  |  |

Fig 11 - Lifestyle brands peer comparison

|   | CAGR (FY19- | ·FY23) (%) | EBITDA margin (%) |              |              | rgin (%) |            | EV/EBITDA (x)  |              | P/E (x)   |        |
|---|-------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|--------|
| ·   | Revenue     | EBITDA     | FY19              | FY20         | FY21         | FY22     | FY23       | FY25           | FY26         | FY25      | FY26   |
| Lifestyle brands *                          | 11.3        | 20.5       | 12.1              | 17.2         | 12.4         | 17.4     | 16.6       | 16.9           | 14.0         | NA        | NA     |
| Kewal Kiran                                 | 11.6        | 7.8        | 22.3              | 18.0         | 6.2          | 16.5     | 19.5       | 20.1           | 17.0         | 26.4      | 22.5   |
| Arvind Fashions - Power brands **           | 9.8         | 7.4        | 12.3              | 12.7         | 7.6          | 9.5      | 11.3       | 10.1           | 8.4          | 36.9      | 25.0   |
| Trent                                       | 33.0        | 47.4       | 8.7               | 15.5         | 6.6          | 12.8     | 13.0       | 54.3           | 42.6         | 104.3     | 77.5   |
| Go Fashion                                  | 23.6        | 27.6       | 28.0              | 32.3         | 18.5         | 30.5     | 31.9       | 21.5           | 17.4         | 52.5      | 39.8   |
| Vedant Fashion                              | 14.1        | 18.9       | 41.9              | 43.0         | 43.0         | 47.6     | 49.5       | 27.6           | 23.1         | 43.6      | 35.8   |
| Source: Company, Bloomberg, Anand Rathi Res | earch Note: | FY19 EBITD | A & EBITDA        | margin is Pr | e IND AS 116 | 3 *EV/EB | ITDA and P | E for combined | ABFRL entity | **EV/EBIT | DA and |

Casual brands include American Eagle and Forever 21. The company has been focusing on ramping up its network expansion for American Eagle and strengthened its position as a formidable denim brand. The brand reported 79%/89% y/y revenue growth in FY22/FY23, led by continued network expansion and healthy comparable growth.

The company has been struggling with Forever 21 since its acquisition in 2016. With keener competition from the likes of H&M and higher customs duty on imported apparel, Forever21 had been struggling prior to ABFRL's acquisition. It reported 13%/40% y/y revenue growth in FY22/FY23. However, with the tough demand environment in the value segment and stiffer competition, the brand has been faced with growth challenges in

FY24. It has been focusing on network rationalisation, driving operational efficiency and expanding the e-commerce channel for the brand.

The company has been focusing on its **innerwear and athleisure** portfolio through relentless distribution expansion, strong e-commerce growth and launching products. It reported 33% y/y growth over both FY22 and FY23. However, the segment has been hit due to sluggish demand for athleisure and poor secondary sales in the trade channel. Ahead, distribution expansion and athleisure/activewear would be chief growth levers for management. Innerwear, per management, would turn profitable by end-FY25 or early FY26. Trade outlets increased from 14,000 in FY19 to 34,300 in 9M FY24.

Reebok reported another quarter of Rs1bn+ sales in Q3 FY24, led by continued distribution expansion and better store throughput. It continued to expand across channels and strengthen its product range by introducing new sports categories such as cricket, tennis and badminton. The company acquired the rights to distribute and sell Reebok in India and other ASEAN countries for Rs750m-1000m. The transition for this was completed in Oct'22. The brand has already achieved break-even and is expected to be profitable in its first full year of operations. 39 Reebok stores have been added in CY23, expanding operations to 161 EBOs and 185 departmental stores.

Valuation. We arrive at Rs254/share for MFL. We assign 15x FY26e EV/EBITDA (12.5x earlier) to Lifestyle brands, a slight premium to peers on account of its mature brands with high brand equity, high RoCE and well-managed working capital. We assign 1x FY26e EV/sales to the other brands (casual wear, innerwear, Reebok). We have raised our target multiple for Lifestyle brands as it doesn't have to fund the losses of the newer businesses and can utilise its cash for own growth. Further the capital allocation is likely to improve as the two entities become separate and have separate access to capital.

We expect MFL to have minimal to no debt due to strong cash generation by the Lifestyle brands. Per our estimates, Forever 21 and the innerwear business are drags for MFL, which might have minimal debt due to investments to turn around these businesses. Hence, we have assumed overall MFL to have nil net debt.

We believe MFL post-demerger can see a multiple re-rating, led by its superior brand equity, stable margins, well-managed working capital and strong cash-flows. Its low growth could be a drag, which can be accelerated if management uses the company's cashflows for its own growth (vs. earlier using it to fund losses of other businesses). We believe a clearer capital allocation strategy of the resultant MFL entity will re-assure us regarding the company's de-merger decision.

| Fig 12 – MFL valuation summary – post-demerger |        |                     |           |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--------|---------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Business segment                               | FY26e  | Target multiple (x) | EV (Rs m) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lifestyle brands (EBITDA Rs m)                 | 16,026 | 15.0                | 240,392   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Others (sales Rs m)                            | 17,315 | 1.0                 | 17,315    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sum-of-parts value                             | 33,341 |                     | 257,707   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net debt                                       |        |                     | -         |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shareholder value                              |        |                     | 257,707   |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of shares (m)                              |        |                     | 1,015     |  |  |  |  |  |
| TP (Rs)  |        |                     | 254       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Source: Anand Rathi Research                   |        |                     |           |  |  |  |  |  |

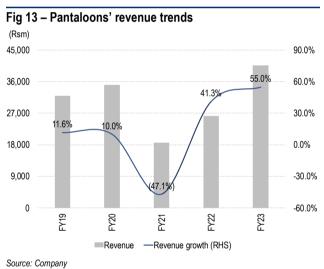
We expect Lifestyle brands to report a 13% revenue CAGR over FY24-26, driven by healthy comparable growth, network and category expansions. Led by premiumisation and economies of scale, we expect a ~200bp EBITDA margin expansion over FY23-FY26 to ~19% (~17% in FY23). For the other brands (casual wear, innerwear, Reebok) we have assumed a ~20% revenue CAGR over FY24-FY26 (on a relatively lower base) led by network expansion and comparable growth.

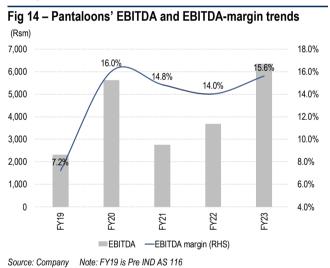
#### **ABFRL**

The de-merged ABFRL entity will consist of value retail (Pantaloons, Style Up), the ethnic portfolio (incl. TCNS), luxury brands (The Collective, Galleries Lafayette and select others) and digital brands under TMRW.

**Pantaloons** was hit by the dull demand environment and stiffer competition in the value segment. It reported a 6% revenue CAGR over FY19-23. Pre-Covid, the segment was struggling; Covid-19 added to its woes. Pantaloons has reported average EBITDA margin of ~15% margin over FY20-23, powered by the higher mix of private labels, better cost-control management and focus on full-price sales.

Private brands brought 64% to revenue in 9M FY24, MFL brands 10%, other brands 26%. Pantaloons reported a 9% store expansion CAGR over FY19-23 to 431 stores in FY23 (from 308 in FY19). 15 stores (net) were added in 9M FY24, taking the total to 446.





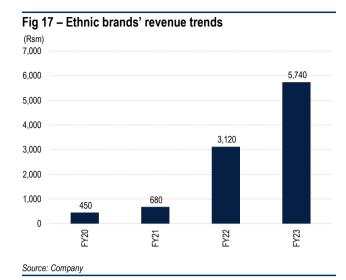
| Fig 15 – Pantaloons' key performa   | ance indicato | rs    |        |       |       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
|                                     | FY19          | FY20  | FY21   | FY22  | FY23  |
| Walk-ins (m)                        | 54.0          | 57.0  | 23.0   | 36.0  | 62.0  |
| Conversion, %                       | 24.3          | 26.1  | 31.5   | 26.2  | 21.6  |
| Avg. selling price (ASP) (Rs/piece) | 643           | 665   | 649    | 727   | 813   |
| Avg. bill value (ABV) (Rs)          | 1,880         | 2,001 | 2,075  | 2,325 | 2,468 |
| Items per bill (no.)                | 2.9           | 3.0   | 3.2    | 3.2   | 3.0   |
| LTL volume growth, %                | 3.1           | (2.1) | (50.5) | 18.0  | 31.5  |
| LTL ASP growth, %                   | (1.7)         | 4.9   | (1.7)  | 12.7  | 12.1  |
| LTL value growth, %                 | 1.4           | 2.7   | (51.3) | 33.0  | 47.5  |
| No. of stores                       | 308           | 342   | 346    | 377   | 431   |
| Total retail area (m sq.ft.)        | 4.0           | 4.4   | 4.5    | 4.9   | 5.7   |
| High Street vs. mall store mix, %   | 40            | 42    | 42     | 44    | 48    |
| Source: Company                     |               |       |        |       |       |

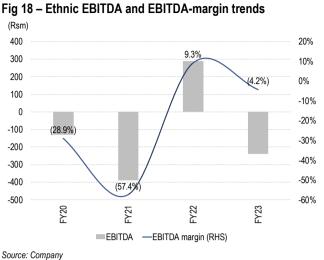
Fig 16 - Pantaloons peer comparison

|  | CAGR (FY19-FY23) (%) |   | EBITDA margin (%) |      |         |  | EV/EBITDA (x) |      | P/E (x) |       |       |
|--|----------------------|---|-------------------|------|---------|--|---------------|------|---------|-------|-------|
|  | Revenue              | EBITDA  | FY19              | FY20 | FY21    | FY22   | FY23          | FY25 | FY26    | FY25  | FY26  |
| Pantaloons *                                 | 6.2                  | 28.8  | 7.2               | 16.0 | 14.8    | 14.0   | 15.6          | 16.9 | 14.0    | NA    | NA    |
| Trent  | 33.0                 | 47.4  | 8.7               | 15.5 | 6.6     | 12.8   | 13.0          | 54.3 | 42.6    | 104.3 | 77.5  |
| Vmart  | 14.5                 | 19.3  | 9.3               | 12.9 | 12.2    | 12.3   | 10.9          | 17.8 | 12.6    | NA    | 101.2 |
| Shoppers Stop                                | 3.0                  | 29.7  | 6.9               | 15.9 | 2.5     | 10.7   | 17.3          | 12.5 | 10.2    | 52.6  | 37.9  |
| Dmart  | 21.0                 | 22.2  | 8.2               | 8.6  | 7.2     | 8.1  | 8.5           | 57.5 | 46.7    | 89.0  | 72.2  |
| Source: Company, Bloomberg, Anand Rathi Rese | arch Note: I         | Note: FY19 EBITDA & EBITDA margin is Pre IND AS 116 |                   |      | 6 *EV/E | *EV/EBITDA and P/E for combined ABFRL entity |               |      |         |       |       |

ABFRL started building its **ethnic portfolio** on acquiring Jaypore in Jun'19. Over FY20-22 it has partnered with Shantanu N Nikhil, Sabyasachi, Tarun Tahiliani and Masaba to build its ethnic portfolio, for a consideration of Rs7,250m (incl. Jaypore). It acquired a 51% stake in TCNS in Sep'23 for a consideration of Rs16.5bn. With these acquisitions, it is present across subsegments for its ethnic product offerings in the value to luxury segments.

Its ethnic portfolio grew  $\sim$ 13x y/y over FY19-23 to Rs5.7bn. Its (EBITDA) loss was Rs240m in FY23 because of continuing investments to build this portfolio and higher marketing investments to build brand visibility. Jaypore and Tasva have been dragging on the segment's performance. The ethnic segment's (incl. TCNS from Q3) 9M FY24 revenue grew  $\sim$ 2x y/y to Rs8.3bn and the (EBITDA) loss fell to Rs110m (vs. Rs280m loss a year ago).





The company's **luxury brands** include multi-brand format 'The Collective', Galleries Lafayette and select others. The Collective has been reporting robust growth, consistently doing well in the mono-brand range (Hackett, Fred Perry, Ted Baker, Ralph Lauren), strong performance in the e-comm portal TheCollective.IN, continued network expansion, targeted marketing campaigns and healthy comparable growth. It reported ~60% y/y growth to Rs3.5bn in FY23, powered by 41% comparable growth.

ABFRL further partnered with Galleries Lafayette in Nov'22 to open luxury department stores and a dedicated e-com platform in India. It will be opening two flagship stores, in Mumbai and Delhi, expected to be operational by 2024-25.

In Nov'22 for a total consideration of Rs2,890m, ABFRL's **D2C** subsidiary 'TMRW' partnered with eight digital-first brands: Berrylush, Bewakoof, Juneberry, Natilene, Nauti Nati, Nobero, Urbano and Veirdo. Further, in Oct'23 for a consideration of Rs1,550m it partnered with Styleverse Lifestyle Pvt. Ltd. (The Indian Garage Co.). It has invested Rs7.5bn in TMRW. It has now largely completed acquisitions to grow its digital-first brands portfolio. Per management, for any subsequent brand additions, TMRW will have to raise its own funds which may happen towards next year end.

It reported Rs1.1bn and Rs3.1bn revenue respectively in FY23 and 9M FY24. Losses (EBITDA) rose to Rs1.2bn in 9M FY24 (vs. a Rs640m loss in FY23). Management says it would take a minimum three years for the portfolio to turn profitable.

**Valuation.** We arrive at Rs40/share for ABFRL, post-demerger. Its various divisions lead us to value it on a sum-of-parts basis. Segment-wise, we assign 10.5x FY26e EV/EBITDA to Pantaloons, and 10x to TCNS. To the other segment (ethnic wear brands excl.-TCNS, luxury and D2C brands) we assign 1x FY26e EV/sales.

According to our estimates, most of the businesses left with ABFRL post-demerger are currently cash-flow negative. We expect it (post-demerger) to have the bulk of the debt (Rs28.8bn consolidated net debt as per our FY24e) due to debt taken to fund investments (Pantaloons cash-burn and acquisitions - ethnic wear, TMRW, TCNS). In the past, the acquisitions and cash losses in these businesses were funded by Lifestyle brands' strong cash-flows. However, with such cash-flows not available to ABFRL to use post-demerger, it will have to raise capital to fund its growth requirements.

| Fig 19 – ABFRL valuation summary – post-demerger |        |                     |           |  |  |
|--|--------|---------------------|-----------|--|--|
| Business segment                                 | FY26e  | Target multiple (x) | EV (Rs m) |  |  |
| Pantaloons (EBITDA, Rs m)                        | 8,221  | 10.5                | 86,318    |  |  |
| Others (sales, Rs m)                             | 13,839 | 1.0                 | 13,839    |  |  |
| TCNS (EBITDA, Rs m)                              | 2,191  | 10.0                | 11,172    |  |  |
| Sum-of-parts bvalue                              | 24,251 |                     | 111,330   |  |  |
| Debt   |        |                     | 73,229    |  |  |
| Cash   |        |                     | 2,570     |  |  |
| Net debt   |        |                     | 70,659    |  |  |
| Shareholder value                                |        |                     | 40,671    |  |  |
| No. of shares (m)                                |        |                     | 1,015     |  |  |
| TP (Rs)  |        |                     | 40        |  |  |
| Source: Anand Rathi Research                     |        |                     |           |  |  |

We expect Pantaloons to report an 11% revenue CAGR over FY24-26 led by the better macro environment, driving growth in value retail, network expansion and comparable growth. We expect it to deliver a consistent,  $\sim$ 15%, EBITDA margin over FY25-26. We have built in Rs14.6bn revenue for TCNS and a 15% EBITDA margin in FY26.

# **Valuation**

We revise our sum-of-parts valuation to reflect the two separate entities. We upgrade our rating to a Buy with a revised TP of Rs294 a share. We assign Rs254 to the resultant Madura entity and Rs40 to the residual ABFRL businesses.

| Fig 20 – Sum-of-parts valuation summary |          |  |  |  |
|---|----------|--|--|--|
| Entity                                  | TP/share |  |  |  |
| MFL (Fig 12)                            | 254      |  |  |  |
| ABFRL (Fig 19)                          | 40       |  |  |  |
| TP combined entity                      | 294      |  |  |  |
| CMP                                     | 237      |  |  |  |
| Up / (Downside)                         | 24.0%    |  |  |  |
| Source: Anand Rathi Research            |          |  |  |  |

| Fig 21 – Valuation parameters |              |       |        |       |       |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
|                               | FY22         | FY23  | FY24e  | FY25e | FY26e |
| P/E (x)                       | NA           | NA    | NA     | NA    | NA    |
| EV / EBITDA (x)               | 28.8         | 18.9  | 21.5   | 15.8  | 12.2  |
| EV / Sales (x)                | 3.9          | 2.3   | 2.2    | 2.0   | 1.7   |
| RoE (%)                       | (4.4)        | (1.9) | (16.2) | (6.3) | 0.3   |
| RoCE (%)                      | 2.2          | 4.0   | (1.4)  | 1.7   | 6.2   |
| Source: Company, Anand Ra     | thi Research |       |        |       |       |

### **Risks**

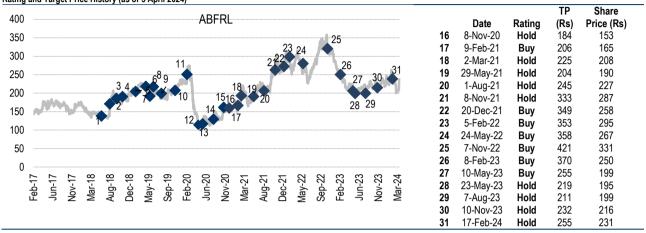
- Keen competition denting revenue growth.
- Mounting losses in its Fast Fashion and other businesses, piling pressure on the overall profitability.
- Turnaround in new initiatives such as the ethnic range, D2C businesses, etc., may take time and, thus, curtail overall profitability.
- Rising debt on funding acquisitions and partnerships.

### **Appendix**

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|------------------------------------|------|-------|------|--|
| , ,                                | Buy  | Hold  | Sell |  |
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