

## India

## REDUCE (no change)

Buy 5 Hold 6 Sell 10 Consensus ratings\*: Current price: Rs3.510 Rs3.010 Target price: Previous target: Rs3.064 Up/downside: -14.2% InCred Research / Consensus: -13.0% Reuters: **ESCORTS IN** Bloombera: US\$5,408m Market cap: Rs392,736m US\$15.7m Average daily turnover:

Rs1139.6m

111.9m

33.7%

#### Key changes in this note

Current shares o/s:

Free float:

\*Source: Bloomberg

- > Sales increased by 20-21% for FY25F-26F.
- ➤ EBITDA increased by 2-8% for FY25F-26F.



		Source: Bloomberg		
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M	
Absolute (%)	(4.4)	(7.9)	9.5	
Relative (%)	(4.0)	(5.6)	(8.7)	

Major shareholders	% held
Kubota Corporation	53.5
Nanda Family	12.8
HDFC Mutual Fund	1.6

# **Escorts Kubota Ltd**

## Kubota benefits remain elusive

- Merger of Kubota India operations distorted 2Q financials. Normalized EPS rose 5% qoq, aided by tractors, while construction & railway biz disappointed.
- Estimates adjusted for merger benefit on sales, but a drag on margins.
- Maintain REDUCE rating as high expectations regarding Kubota benefits were difficult to come through in the tractor division, and also railway biz divestment.

## Post-merger EBITDA margin impact disappoints in 2QFY25

Escorts Kubota's 2QFY25 standalone net sales stood at Rs24.7bn, flat yoy and down 12% qoq. EBITDA grew by 28% qoq to Rs2.7bn, but flat yoy. The EBITDA margin contracted by 238bp sequentially to 10.8%. Normalized PAT, at Rs.3.3bn, was up 53% yoy and 8% qoq on the back of a 23% yoy growth in other income. The tractor segment's revenue declined by 13% qoq while it was up 5% yoy at Rs18.8bn, with the EBIT margin at 9.1%,a decline of 252bp qoq. The construction equipment segment's revenue fell 13% on the back of a volume drop of 18%. The railway segment's revenue fell 10% yoy.

### Management commentary

Management indicated FY25F industry volume will grow in high single digit. However, it was flat in 1HFY25 due to heatwave, general elections in India and heavy rainfall. During the quarter, the eastern part of the country, except Bihar, grew tremendously. Going ahead, demand from western and southern parts of the country is likely to pick up. Management is in advanced discussions with the Uttar Pradesh government for a land parcel to establish the company's greenfield facility. Kubota India's merger impacted the EBITDA margin by 230bp in 1HFY25 (Fig. 6), which management expects to ease in coming quarters as cost optimization benefits accrue. The railway division has been sold for just Rs16bn because the interest from bidders was low.

#### Incorporation of merger, railway division sale impact on financials

The merger of Kubota India leads to 20+% upgrade in net sales for FY25F-26F. However, the EBITDA upgrade is just 2-8% due to margin drag. The good festive demand in recent months raises hopes of a double-digit tractor volume growth in 2HFY25F. New emission norms to influence consumer behaviour (pre-purchases in FY26F and demand dip in FY27F). Incorporating the railway division's disposal, we trim FY27F sales.

#### Kubota benefits delayed; maintain REDUCE rating

The delay in Kubota benefits, in terms of export volume revival and new plant capacity is disappointing. The merger, which brings the EBITDA margin to a low level, is a cause of concern while the recovery, we believe, will be gradual. However, the valuation, despite the recent stock price correction, is at +1SD above the five-year mean level. We maintain our REDUCE rating on the stock with the target price slightly lower at Rs3,010 (Rs3,064 earlier), at 24x forward EPS. Key upside risk: Tractor pre-purchase benefits ahead of the new emission norms aiding FY26F profitability.

Financial Summary	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue (Rsm)	83,450	106,811	116,747	135,594	127,207
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	7,805	13,203	13,679	16,899	15,238
Net Profit (Rsm)	6,070	10,816	12,319	26,897	13,135
Core EPS (Rs)	60.8	96.7	103.9	143.0	117.4
Core EPS Growth	(11.2%)	59.0%	7.4%	37.7%	(17.9%)
FD Core P/E (x)	64.71	36.31	31.88	14.60	29.90
DPS (Rs)	7.0	13.0	16.0	40.0	25.0
Dividend Yield	0.24%	0.37%	0.46%	1.14%	0.71%
EV/EBITDA (x)	49.72	29.12	28.29	22.76	25.27
P/FCFE (x)	129.89	40.90	(533.46)	57.13	165.47
Net Gearing	(5.6%)	(8.8%)	(5.5%)	(6.4%)	(5.6%)
P/BV (x)	4.66	4.17	3.75	3.09	2.86
ROE	8.3%	12.1%	11.7%	13.8%	9.9%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			(2.96%)	15.53%	(13.13%)
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

#### SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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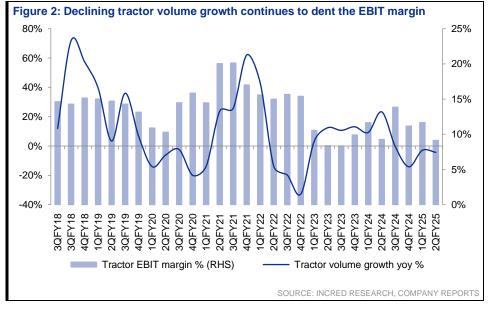
## Kubota benefits remain elusive

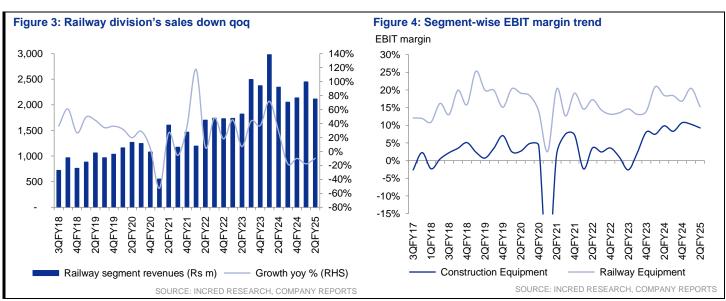
## Management conference-call highlights>

- Outlook: In 1HFY25, the tractor industry's volume witnessed flat growth yoy, sluggish growth in the early part of FY24 due to heatwave, general elections in India and heavy rainfall which were offset by a 22-23% yoy festive season-led growth in Oct 2024. In 2HFY25F, management expects the growth rate to be in the range of mid-high teens led by government initiatives on infrastructure projects, rural demand recovery led by favourable monsoons and supply of crops to mandis (markets).
- Merger: The NCLT has approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of Escorts Kubota India Private Limited and Kubota Agricultural Machinery India Private Limited (amalgamating companies) with Escorts Kubota (amalgamated company). So, historical financials have been revised to reflect it and are not strictly comparable.
- **Financial performance**: The EBITDA margin for the quarter was impacted by 300bp due to the merger, which is likely to normalize to 150bp soon. In the next two years, management expects it to recover to 13% with cost rationalization and localization.
- Region-wise outlook: During the quarter, the eastern part of the country, except Bihar, grew tremendously, especially Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal, driven by adequate rains. Going ahead, western and southern parts of the country are likely to pick up.
- International business: Management's priority is Mexican and Southeast Asian markets, for which the products will be developed by 4QFY25F and FY26F, respectively. Exports to the American market and South America will commence from the upcoming greenfield facility in FY27F. The export volume remains under pressure in 3Q due to weak demand in the European market, which is likely to see an uptick from 4QFY25F.
- Railway division: Escorts Kubota has inked a business transfer agreement with Sona BLW Precision Forgings (Sona Comstar) for transferring its existing railway equipment business division (RED) as a going concern, on a slump sale basis, for a lumpsum cash consideration of Rs16bn. This divestment is subject to customary closing conditions, including the receipt of necessary approvals and permissions. The valuation of this business, at 9x EV/EBIT and 1.7x price/sales, has been below management's expectations, as the product portfolio overlaps limited other bidders' interest in the acquisition.
- Greenfield facility: Management is in advanced discussions with the Uttar Pradesh government for a land parcel to establish the company's greenfield facility, and this matter is likely to get closed in the next six months and a further 2.5 years for plant construction. Estimated capex for the greenfield facility is ~Rs45bn. Currently, the tractor manufacturing facility is running at ~75% capacity utilization.
- Debt position: There was Rs350m of debt relating to the Kubota India operations, which the company repaid post-merger.
- Costs front: Raw material prices were stable in 2Q, except rubber. For the next quarter, management expects no major improvement in raw material prices.
- New products: The newly launched product, World Max, is a high HP tractor
  which is getting healthy traction from customers. Now, the company is planning
  to launch it in new geographies. A new range is likely to be launched by JanFeb 2024F, and it will be a 41-50HP tractor, which, management feels, will fill
  the gap.
- **Dealer inventory level**: 35-37 days post-festive season.



Figure 1: Quarterly res	ults con	nparison						
Y/E Mar (Rs m)	2QFY25	2QFY24	yoy % chg	1QFY25	qoq % chg	1HFY25	1HFY24	yoy % chg
Revenue	24,762	24,646	0.5	28,010	(11.6)	52,771	52,668	0.2
Raw material costs	17,139	17,232	(0.5)	19,639	(12.7)	36,778	37,243	(1.2)
RM costs as a % of revenue	69.2	69.9	(70)	70.1	(90.2)	69.7	70.7	(101.9)
EBITDA	2,676	2,667	0.3	3,694	(27.6)	6,367	6,270	1.5
EBITDA margin (%)	10.8	10.8	(1.7)	13.2	(238.4)	12.1	11.9	16.0
Depreciation & amortization	636	582	9.3	615	3.4	1,251	1,124	11.4
EBIT	2,039	2,085	(2.2)	3,079	(33.8)	5,116	5,147	(0.6)
Interest expenses	92	87	6.5	101	(9.1)	193	174	11.3
Other income	1,153	936	23.1	1,025	12.5	2,178	1,861	17.0
Pre-tax profit	3,100	2,935	5.6	4,003	(22.6)	7,100	6,834	3.9
Tax	753	802	(6.1)	968	(22.2)	1,721	1,749	(1.6)
Tax rate (%)	24.3	27.3	(303)	24.2	12	24.2	25.6	(136.6)
Normalized net profit	2,347	2,133	10.0	3,035	(22.7)	5,379	5,084	5.8
Exceptionals	920	-		-	nm	920	-	nm
Reported net profit	3,267	2,133	53.2	3,035	7.6	6,299	5,084	23.9
Normalized EPS (Rs)	21.0	19.1	10.0	27.1	(22.7)	48.1	45.4	5.8
Tractor volume (nos)	27,945	29,212	(4.3)	28,420	(1.7)	56,365	58,494	(3.6)
Tractor realization (Rs)	6,74,235	6,12,539	10.1	7,64,145	(11.8)	7,19,569	6,68,735	7.6
				SOURCE	: INCRED	RESEARCH	, COMPANY	REPORTS







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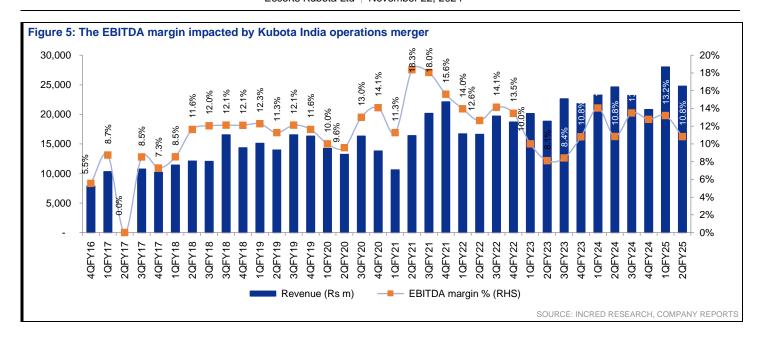


Figure 6: Financial matrix pre-post-merger							
_			2QFY25			FY24	
Particulars (Rs m)	Reported	Restated	Change	Reported	Restated	Change	
Revenue from operations	22,925	28,010	22%	87,767	1,06,811	22%	
Profit before tax	3,881	4,003	3%	13,898	14,409	4%	
PBT margin	16.9%	14.3%	-264	15.8%	13.5%	-235	
SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS							

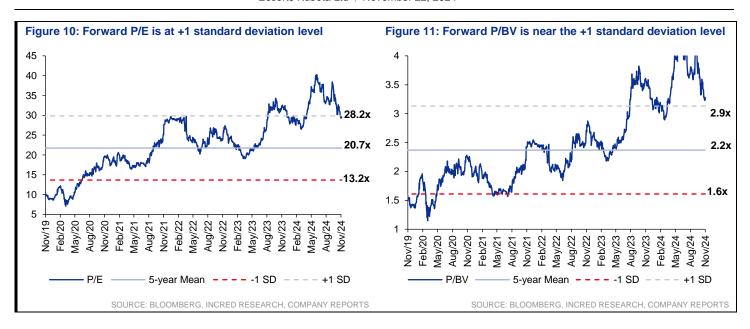
Figure 7: Our revised earnings estimates						
		FY25F		FY26F		FY27F
(Rs m)	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Tractor volume (nos)	97,554	1,19,745	1,06,141	1,32,917	1,13,201	1,22,284
% change		22.7%		25.2%		8.0%
Net sales	96,268	1,16,747	1,13,459	1,35,594	1,28,899	1,27,207
% change		21.3%		19.5%		-1.3%
EBITDA	13,467	13,679	15,692	16,899	17,152	15,238
% change		1.6%		7.7%		-11.2%
EBITDA margin	14.0%	11.7%	13.8%	12.5%	13.3%	12.0%
bp change		(162)		(99)		(100)
PAT	11,826	11,409	13,679	14,097	14,932	13,135
% change		-3.5%		3.1%	0.0%	-12.0%
	SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS					

Figure 8: Key assumptions					
Volume Assumptions	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Tractor volume (units)	1,03,290	95,858	1,19,745	1,32,917	1,22,284
Growth yoy %	9.6%	-7.2%	24.9%	11.0%	-8.0%
Construction equipment volume (units)	4,620	6,548	6,548	7,989	9,427
Growth yoy %	12.2%	41.7%	0.0%	22.0%	18.0%
Total revenue (Rs m)	83,450	1,06,811	1,16,747	1,35,594	1,27,207
Growth yoy %	16.7%	28.0%	9.3%	16.1%	-6.2%
EBITDA margin %	9.4%	12.4%	11.7%	12.5%	12.0%
Segment-wise assumptions					
Tractor revenue (Rs m)	63,161	61,101	88,664	1,00,385	97,895
EBIT margin %	9.3%	12.7%	45.1%	13.2%	-2.5%
Construction equipment revenue (Rs m)	11,790	17,097	18,294	23,658	29,312
EBIT margin %	2.9%	9.3%	10.0%	10.5%	11.0%
Railway equipment revenue (Rs m)	8,419	9,504	9,789	11,551	-
EBIT margin %	13.8%	18.9%	18.0%	19.0%	20.0%
		SOURCE:	INCRED RESEA	ARCH, COMPAN	Y REPORTS

Figure 9: Our valuation methodology	
1-year forward EPS (Rs)	120.4
P/E(x)	25.0
Target price (Rs)	3,010
	SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



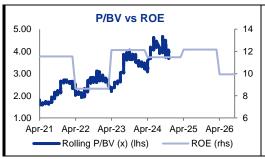
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## BY THE NUMBERS





Profit & Loss					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Net Revenues	83,450	106,811	116,747	135,594	127,207
Gross Profit	22,781	31,524	35,024	40,814	37,526
Operating EBITDA	7,805	13,203	13,679	16,899	15,238
Depreciation And Amortisation	(1,484)	(2,328)	(2,654)	(2,972)	(3,215)
Operating EBIT	6,321	10,876	11,025	13,927	12,023
Financial Income/(Expense)	(103)	(393)	(350)	(100)	(75)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	2,806	3,926	4,436	4,969	5,565
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	9,024	14,409	15,112	18,796	17,513
Exceptional Items	(972)		910	12,800	
Pre-tax Profit	8,052	14,409	16,022	31,596	17,513
Taxation	(1,982)	(3,592)	(3,702)	(4,699)	(4,378)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	6,070	10,816	12,319	26,897	13,135
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	6,070	10,816	12,319	26,897	13,135
Recurring Net Profit	6,802	10,816	11,620	16,001	13,135
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	6,802	10,816	11,620	16,001	13,135

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
EBITDA	7,805	13,203	13,679	16,899	15,238
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	(3,803)	(3,538)	(797)	(1,044)	3,474
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions	(392)	3,182	255	300	300
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense					
Other Operating Cashflow	(972)		910	12,800	
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	2,703	3,533	4,086	4,869	5,490
Tax Paid	(1,982)	(3,076)	(3,702)	(4,699)	(4,378)
Cashflow From Operations	3,360	13,304	14,432	29,124	20,124
Capex	(2,304)	(5,546)	(5,489)	(6,000)	(1,500)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	1,968	(1,790)	(9,679)	(16,250)	(16,250)
Cash Flow From Investing	(336)	(7,336)	(15,168)	(22,250)	(17,750)
Debt Raised/(repaid)		3,634			
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares		656			
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(924)	(1,454)	(1,790)	(4,475)	(2,797)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow		(642)			
Cash Flow From Financing	(924)	2,193	(1,790)	(4,475)	(2,797)
Total Cash Generated	2,100	8,161	(2,526)	2,399	(423)
Free Cashflow To Equity	3,024	9,602	(736)	6,874	2,374
Free Cashflow To Firm	3,127	6,361	(386)	6,974	2,449

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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## BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Cash And Equivalents	4,685	11,915	9,389	11,788	11,364
Total Debtors	12,076	14,633	15,033	16,717	12,198
Inventories	11,590	16,562	15,993	16,717	16,380
Total Other Current Assets	4,405	7,028	7,507	8,057	8,607
Total Current Assets	32,756	50,137	47,921	53,278	48,549
Fixed Assets	20,725	23,728	26,073	29,102	27,386
Total Investments	50,306	50,726	60,226	76,226	92,226
Intangible Assets					
Total Other Non-Current Assets					
Total Non-current Assets	71,030	74,453	86,299	105,327	119,612
Short-term Debt					
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	12,329	16,319	15,353	16,717	15,335
Other Current Liabilities	4,300	6,952	7,452	7,952	8,452
Total Current Liabilities	16,628	23,272	22,805	24,669	23,787
Total Long-term Debt		3,634	3,634	3,634	3,634
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities					
Total Non-current Liabilities		3,634	3,634	3,634	3,634
Total Provisions	2,105	3,032	3,087	3,187	3,287
Total Liabilities	18,733	29,937	29,526	31,490	30,707
Shareholders Equity	84,348	94,165	104,694	127,116	137,453
Minority Interests					
Total Equity	84,348	94,165	104,694	127,116	137,453

Key Ratios					
	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue Growth	16.7%	28.0%	9.3%	16.1%	(6.2%)
Operating EBITDA Growth	(18.0%)	69.2%	3.6%	23.5%	(9.8%)
Operating EBITDA Margin	9.4%	12.4%	11.7%	12.5%	12.0%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	41.87	74.02	51.44	72.88	69.10
BVPS (Rs)	753.92	841.66	935.77	1,136.18	1,228.58
Gross Interest Cover	61.37	27.67	31.50	139.27	160.30
Effective Tax Rate	24.6%	24.9%	23.1%	14.9%	25.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	13.1%	13.4%	15.7%	31.7%	21.3%
Accounts Receivables Days	44.51	45.64	46.37	42.73	41.48
Inventory Days	59.04	68.24	72.70	62.98	67.35
Accounts Payables Days	63.49	69.44	70.73	61.75	65.22
ROIC (%)	18.5%	25.4%	21.5%	25.0%	19.6%
ROCE (%)	7.7%	11.8%	10.6%	11.6%	8.8%
Return On Average Assets	7.2%	9.7%	9.0%	9.7%	8.1%

	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
ASP (% chg, main prod./serv.)	4.4%	17.6%	3.0%	2.0%	6.0%
Unit sales grth (%, main prod./serv.)	9.6%	6.4%	9.0%	11.0%	(8.0%)
ASP (% chg, 2ndary prod./serv.)	6.6%	8.8%	0.6%	6.0%	5.0%
Unit sales grth (%,2ndary prod/serv)	12.2%	41.7%	N/A	22.0%	18.0%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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Add	The stock's total return is expected to exceed 10% over the next 12 months.
Hold	The stock's total return is expected to be between 0% and positive 10% over the next 12 months.
Reduce	The stock's total return is expected to fall below 0% or more over the next 12 months.
	turn of a stock is defined as the sum of the: (i) percentage difference between the target price and the current price and (ii) the forward net stock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12 months.
Sector Ratings	Definition:
Overweight	An Overweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a positive absolute recommendation.
Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.
Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.
Country Ratings	Definition:
Overweight	An Overweight rating means investors should be positioned with an above-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.
Neutral	A Neutral rating means investors should be positioned with a neutral weight in this country relative to benchmark.
Underweight	An Underweight rating means investors should be positioned with a below-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.