

FIRST LIGHT

RESEARCH

Technology & Internet

Takeaways from BOBCAPS Digital Conference

SUMMARY

Technology & Internet

- Connected people and enterprises are shaping India's digital economy; structural drivers in place for robust, multiyear growth
- Foodtech, online gaming, data/cloud services and digital marketing are new frontiers of the digital economy
- AFFLE (BUY, TP Rs 1,390) a play on high-growth digital marketing and ECLX (BUY, TP Rs 2,880) on traditional enterprise digital transformation

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Daily macro indicators

Indicator	Current	2D (%)	1M (%)	12M (%)
US 10Y yield (%)	1.42	(7bps)	(15bps)	52bps
India 10Y yield (%)	6.37	0bps	0bps	48bps
USD/INR	75.76	0.0	(1.8)	(3.0)
Brent Crude (US\$/bbl)	74.39	(1.0)	(9.5)	47.9
Dow	35,651	(0.9)	(1.2)	19.4
Shanghai	3,681	0.4	4.0	9.3
Sensex	58,283	(0.9)	(4.0)	26.0
India FII (US\$ mn)	10-Dec	MTD	CYTD	FYTD
FII-D	(101.1)	(331.4)	(248.1)	1,779.2
FII-E	(122.0)	(423.4)	5,079.1	(2,247.3)

Source: Bloomberg

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Our Digital Conference 2021 had C-suite dignitaries from Affle India (AFFLE), eClerx (ECLX), ESDS, Games 24*7, Big Basket and Mindtree (MTCL) who threw light on the evolving digital landscape. Key insights:

Large internet economy opportunity: India's internet economy is booming, which has buoyed the gaming and foodtech segments in particular. Key drivers behind the growing demand for internet-based companies are: (1) low penetration (e-grocery at 0.5%, e-commerce at 7%), (2) increased consumerism leading to more product categories, (3) the highest millennial and Gen Z population in the world, (4) rising demand for anytime-anywhere services, and (5) growing smartphone usage.

India emerging as new gaming frontier: India's gaming market is currently at the level that China's was in 2012. The high attachment rate of users, network effect and large young population are spurring growth. While the Indian audience likes classic games, e-sports are on the rise as well. Games 24*7 has carved a niche for itself as the No. 1 card gaming platform in the country with full-stack offerings that differentiate it from competition.

Foodtech growth aided by attractive value proposition: Price, convenience and assortment are key growth drivers in foodtech. Indian consumers are currently at the convenience stage. Product bundling and complimentary services are vital to achieving profitability in the delivery business. E-grocery is the only segment which provides access to a loyal older demographic.

Data centre business on the uptrend: ESDS, the oldest data centre company in India, emphasize relationship and pricing or deal commercials as key criteria to win business in India. It expects financial capital Mumbai to be the prime data centre location in India as most cable networks land in the city. ESDS largely caters to Indian clients, who are typically price sensitive, and has seen a vast increase in network density in recent months due to demand for cloud services. The boom in core banking digitisation, which was not even 10% of banking pre-Covid, has opened up various avenues for growth.

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Recommendation scale: Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY – Expected return >+15%

HOLD – Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

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