STOCK SURGES 8% ON BETTER OUTLOOK

Mphasis Q1 revenue flat; deal pipeline strong

FE BUREAU
Bengaluru, July 26

MPHASIS, A MID-TIER IT solutions provider, reported nearly flat sequential revenue growth in the quarter ended June but managed to expand its bottom line by nearly 3%. Shares of Mphasis surged over 8% intraday to a 52-week high of ₹3,077.95 as the market reacted positively to the management's upbeat commentary.

The company's revenue from operations rose 0.2% quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q), reaching ₹3,422 crore. In constant currency terms, Mphasis reported a 0.1% sequential growth and a 3.1% year-on-year (y-o-y) increase in revenue, according to a company press release. Net profit came in at ₹404 crore.

"We are observing a consistent rise in client demand. Coupled with our strong deal pipeline, we are cautiously optimistic about continued improvement in our core markets," said chief executive officer and managing director Nitin Rakesh in the release.

REPORT CARD

- Operating margin for Mphasis improved by 10 bps sequentially
- The management remains optimistic about meeting its FY25 margin guidance of 14.6-16%
- The banking and financial services sector saw a 1.1% y-o-y growth
- The technology, media, and telecom segment experienced an 11% growth

NITIN RAKESH,
CEO & MD, MPHASIS

COUPLED WITH OUR STRONG DEAL PIPELINE, WE ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN OUR CORE MARKETS

Mphasis secured new total contract value (TCV) wins amounting to $319 million, up from $177 million recorded in the March quarter. Notably, 84% of these new TCVs were for new-generation services.

"As AI-enabled platforms gain traction and are integrated into all deal types and solutions, we are experiencing strong growth momentum in AI-powered deals, leveraging our 'Savings led Transformation' theme," Rakesh added.

Meanwhile, the operating margin for Mphasis improved by 10 basis points (bps) sequentially, settling at 15% in the June quarter. The management remains optimistic about meeting its FY25 margin guidance of 14.6-16%.

In terms of verticals, the banking and financial services sector saw a 1.1% y-o-y growth, reaching ₹1,630 crore. The technology, media, and telecom segment experienced an 11% growth, totalling ₹5,490 crore.

The company's headcount decreased by 1,019 employees, bringing the total to 31,645 for the April-June period. However, the utilisation rate increased by one percentage point, reaching 76% in Q1 from the previous quarter's 75%.

Earnings per share (EPS) for Mphasis rose by 1.8% year-on-year, amounting to ₹21.4.

DLF revises FY25 launch area guidance to 12.8 mn sq ft

RAGHAVENDRA KAMATH
Mumbai, July 26

DLF, THE COUNTRY'S largest listed property developer, has increased its guidance for launch area for FY25 from 11.6 million sq ft to 12.8 million sq ft.

The new launches have a sales potential of ₹42,000 crore, the company stated in its analyst presentation. Earlier, it had increased this guidance from 10 million sq ft to 11.6 million square feet for FY25.

"We have increased the guidance as final plans for the projects have been frozen," said Ashok Kumar Tyagi, managing director and CEO of the company, during the earnings call.

"Indexation going away won't have much bearing on sales behaviour," Tyagi added.

In the budget, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman reduced the long-term capital gains tax to 12.5% from 20% earlier for properties but removed the indexation benefit previously available. Real estate developers and consultants have expressed divergent views about the move; some say it will benefit sellers, while others believe the tax outgo will increase.

PLANS IN PIPELINE

- DLF stated that their new launches have a sales potential of ₹42,000 crore
- It plans to launch its Goa project in the September quarter of FY25
- It also plans to launch new products worth over ₹1 trn
- DLF's sales bookings rose more than three times on a yearly basis to ₹6,404 crore in Q1FY25

The company plans to launch its Goa project in the September quarter of FY25, its luxury project Lux 5 by January next year and a new project under the Privana brand in Q4FY25, Tyagi said.

The company has plans to launch over ₹1 trillion worth of new products covering an area of 36 million sq ft over the medium term, the company said. Its sales bookings rose more than three times on a yearly basis to ₹6,404 crore in Q1FY25.

Akash Ohri, joint managing director at DLF Home Developers, said the company has achieved sales of ₹32,000 crore in the last 15 months across its projects.

"Demand is consolidating towards better products. All our launches are global launches. We are seeing robust demand from across the world, and the NRI pipeline is strong," Ohri said. He added that, unlike others, they require an advance of ₹50 lakh, ensuring that only serious buyers book their properties.

RESULTS CORNER

Cipla net profit rises 17.77% to ₹1,175 cr

CIPLA REPORTED A 17.77% rise in profit at ₹1,175.46 crore in the first quarter ended June 30. It had posted a consolidated profit of ₹998.07 crore in the first quarter of the last fiscal. **PTI**

LatentView reports Q1 profit of ₹38.92 crore

DIGITAL ANALYTICS CONSULTING and solutions provider LatentView Analytics recorded a net profit of ₹38.92 crore for the April-June quarter, the company said. **PTI**

PowerGrid profit up 3.52% in June quarter

POWER GRID CORPORATION of India on Friday posted a 3.52% rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹3,723.92 crore for the June quarter, mainly on account of higher income. **PTI**

Trai explores need for separate voice and data plans

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, July 26

THE TELECOM REGULATORY Authority of India (Trai) on Friday issued a consultation paper to explore the need for separate voice calls, SMS and data plans to meet the specific requirements of subscribers.

According to the regulator, there is a growing demand from certain user segments for more specialised tariff options, such as voice and SMS-only packs. This is because, despite the prevalence of bundled plans that include data and voice and SMS services, many consumers find themselves paying for data they do not use.

"Based on the feedback received from consumer surveys, it is noticed that tariff offers available in the market are broadly bundled tariff offerings having a mix of voice, data, SMS, and OTT services, etc., which may not fulfill the requirements of a large number of subscribers," Trai said in the consultation paper.

"All services may not be required by all subscribers and there is a perception that subscribers are being made to pay for services that are not required by them," it added.

Aditya Birla Group launches jewellery brand 'Indriya'

ROSHUN POVAIAH
New Delhi, July 26

KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA, ADITYA BIRLA GROUP CHAIRMAN

ENTERING THE JEWELLERY BIZ IS COMPELLING DUE TO THE RISING CONSUMER PREFERENCE FOR STRONG, TRUSTED BRANDS & THE BOOMING WEDDING MARKET

THE ADITYA BIRLA Group is foraying into the fast-growing jewellery retail business, aiming to become one of the top three jewellery retailers within the next five years. Branded as 'Indriya', the jewellery business will be managed under Novel Jewels, a venture of the Aditya Birla Group, created with an investment of ₹5,000 crore.

Launching the brand, Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said, "This year, we have redoubled our bet on the dynamism of the Indian consumer by launching two major new consumer brands—in paints and jewellery. Entering the jewellery business is compelling due to the ongoing value migration from informal to formal sectors, the rising consumer preference for strong, trusted brands, and the ever-booming wedding market, all of which present substantial growth opportunities."

The jewellery brand, Indriya, will be available in 10 cities within six months, starting immediately with four stores in three cities—Delhi, Indore, and Jaipur. These will be large-format stores with over 7,000 sq ft of space.

The brand plans to launch with about 5,000 exclusive jewellery designs and over 15,000 curated pieces, aiming to release a new collection every 45 days to keep up with the dynamic Indian jewellery market.

The name "Indriya" is derived from a Sanskrit word related to the five senses.

Indriya will compete with the likes of Tanishq, Reliance Jewels, and CaratLane, aiming to capture a significant share of the ₹6.7 trillion jewellery market in India.

Rising Chinese steel imports to hurt domestic players: Jindal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 26

INCREASED CHINESE STEEL imports are having an adverse impact on the margins of the domestic players, JSW Steel chairman **Sajjan Jindal** said on Friday.

Addressing the company's annual general meeting (AGM) Jindal said several countries have already raised barriers against steel imports. The Indian steel industry is also engaged with the government to ensure a level playing field.

The domestic steel demand increased 13.6% in FY24, outpacing economic growth. This was driven by infrastructure development and robust demand from all major steel-consuming sectors, he said.

"However, global steel demand remains weak, leading to rising imports into India and affecting domestic steel-makers' margins. This is mainly because of elevated Chinese production and exports, pressuring global steel markets," he said.

Moreover, healthy demand for steel in the country also makes the domestic market vulnerable to imports amid weak global demand.

150-200 laid off at WayCool Foods

NARAYANAN V
Chennai, July 26

AGRITECH STARTUP WAYCOOL Foods has laid off 150-200 employees in the latest round of restructuring aimed at reducing operational costs and achieving profitability, sources told *FE*. The recent layoffs have affected employees across various functions in different cities, including those from its subsidiaries BrandsNext and CensaNext, the sources said.

This marks the third round of restructuring for the Lightrock India-backed agritech startup in the last 12 months. Previously, the company reportedly laid off over 70 employees in February and nearly 300 across functions in July last year.

The sources stated that the agritech firm has also seen senior-level exits, including BP Ravindran, the group president of WayCool Foods and CEO of BrandsNext. In April 2023, WayCool carved out BrandsNext as a subsidiary to focus on the FMCG business and appointed Ravindran as its chief executive.

WayCool did not explicitly mention Ravindran's departure or the latest restructuring. However, in response to *FE*'s query, it said, "There are indeed management changes in line with the above, and successors have stepped in where changes were needed."

NELCAST LIMITED
CIN : L27109AP1982PLC003518
Regd. Office: 34, Industrial Estate, Gudur - 524 101. **Tel:** 08624 - 251266.
Fax: 08624 - 252066. **Website:** www.nelcast.com **Email:** nelcast@nelcast.com

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2024

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		3 Months Ended			Year Ended	3 Months Ended			Year Ended
		30.06.2024	31.03.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024	30.06.2024	31.03.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	30232.94	29921.20	29639.28	128121.60	30232.94	29921.20	29639.28	128121.60
2	Net Profit /(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional* and/or Extraordinary items)	813.30	540.83	920.94	5081.84	813.30	540.83	920.94	5081.84
3	Net Profit /(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional* and/or Extraordinary items)	1018.41	591.81	920.94	6861.63	1018.41	591.81	920.94	6861.63
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional* and/or Extraordinary items)	795.52	506.54	717.63	5441.12	795.52	506.54	717.63	5441.12
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period after tax	792.00	541.35	707.55	5427.03	792.00	541.35	707.55	5427.03
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs.2/- each fully paid up)	1740.02	1740.02	1740.02	1740.02	1740.02	1740.02	1740.02	1740.02
7	Other Equity (as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet)				50179.06				50179.06
8	Earnings Per Share of Rs.2/- each (EPS for the Quarters are not annualised)								
	Basic	0.91	0.58	0.82	6.25	0.91	0.58	0.82	6.25
	Diluted	0.91	0.58	0.82	6.25	0.91	0.58	0.82	6.25

Notes :

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites : **www.bseindia.com** and **www.nseindia.com** and on the Company's website **www.nelcast.com.**

* The Company has Exceptional Items of Rs.205.11 Lakhs is on account of profit on sale of land during the quarter ended 30th June 2024, Rs.50.98 Lakhs during the quarter ended 31st March 2024 and Rs.1779.79 Lakhs for the year ended 31st March 2024.

For Nelcast Limited
P. Deepak
Managing Director

Place : Chennai
Date : 26.07.2024

Bajaj Auto gets order for 6,000 CNG bikes

SATVIKI SANJAY
July 26

BAJAJ AUTO, INDIA'S no.1 maker of auto rickshaws, said it has received around 6,000 orders for its new compressed natural gas-powered motorbik—a vehicle it bills as a world first—as consumers seek more affordable ways to embrace greener passenger transport.

Bajaj Freedom, a sports motorcycle with a 124 cubic capacity engine, was launched earlier this month with a starting price of ₹95,000 ($1,135).

Some 100 of the bikes have already been delivered to customers, executive director Rakesh Sharma said in an interview.

Sharma puts the addressable audience for the Freedom in the hundreds of millions.

Most of Bajaj's typical customers are price conscious, earning less than ₹40,000 a month, and the Freedom can shave up to 1,800 rupees off fuel costs versus similarly sized bikes that run on petrol or diesel, he said.

"This customer is all across the country," Sharma said.

Being lead and sulfur free, CNG-run vehicles can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and they are also quieter than gasoline or diesel ones, which results in less noise pollution.

While high levels of domestic production mean CNG in India is cheaper, its lower energy density can require vehicles to refuel more frequently.

India's petroleum and gas ministry has said it aims to build 17,500 CNG filling stations across the country by 2030.

Pune-based Bajaj's Freedom motorcycle was initially launched in states with a high penetration of CNG filling stations, such as Maharashtra, Gujarat and the metropolitan area around capital Delhi, Sharma said. It's now open for orders across the country.

Bajaj also plans to launch the bike in countries that commonly use CNG as an alternative fuel too, like Argentina, Venezuela, Nigeria and Tanzania, Sharma said, without specifying any timeline. Although Bajaj is India's top maker of auto rickshaws it is not no. 1 in scooters. There, it places fourth, with a market share of around 12% behind Hero Motocorp, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India and TVS Motor.

"We've heard other competitors are also looking at developing CNG two wheelers," Sharma said. "It's a defining movement for the motorcycle industry." —**BLOOMBERG**

Piramal Group says no breach in its system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 26

PHARMA TO FINANCIAL services conglomerate Piramal Group has denied any data breach in its system.

A hacker on dark web last week claimed to be allegedly selling a database belonging to Piramal Group.

When contacted, a Piramal spokesperson denied the claim. "We can confirm that there has been no data breach at Piramal Group. The suspicious activity on the dark web was evaluated and confirmed by our cybersecurity team as a false claim," the spokesperson said. The spokesperson said as per the group's investigation, the sample data shared has no relevance to the group."As per our investigation, the sample data shared is not Piramal Organisation data and has no relevance to us. On further investigation, we have also found that the information in question seems to have originated from a third-party platform, Mailinator and not any of the systems at Piramal. Mailinator is not associated with Piramal Group in any form," the spokesperson said.

Piramal Group has also shared the same feedback with the regulatory authority, CERT-In and kept them informed.