



JK Tyre & Industries Limited  
Q3 FY'25 Earnings Conference Call

**February 10, 2025**



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**MODERATOR:** **MR. CHIRAG JAIN – EMKAY GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES**



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**Moderator:** Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Day and welcome to JK Tyre & Industries Limited Q3FY25 Earnings Conference Call hosted by Emkay Global Financial Services.

As a reminder, all participants' lines will be in the listen-only mode and there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions after the presentation concludes. Should you need assistance during the conference call, please signal an operator by pressing "\*\*" then "0" on your touchtone phone. Please note that this conference is being recorded.

I now hand over the conference to Mr. Chirag Jain from Emkay Global Financial Services. Thank you, and over to you, sir.

**Chirag Jain:** Thank you. Good morning, everyone. On behalf of Emkay Global, I would like to welcome you all to the Q3FY25 Earnings Conference Call of JK Tyre & Industries Limited.

Today, we have with us the Senior Management Team represented by Mr. Anshuman Singhania, Managing Director; Mr. Arun K. Bajoria – Director and President (International); Mr. Anuj Kathuria, President (India); Mr. Sanjeev Aggarwal, Chief Financial Officer; and Mr. A.K. Kinra, Financial Advisor.

We'll begin the call with "Opening Comments" from the Management team followed by "Q&A Session." Over to you, sir.

**Anshuman Singhania:** A very good morning to all of you. It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the JK Tyre's Q3 FY25 Earnings Call.

First, of all, I would like to extend my warm wishes to all of you and your family for a very happy new year 2025.

To begin, I would like to share some broad highlights of the Indian economy and then the Auto Sector followed by the Q3 Business Performance.

The Indian economy continued to maintain its position as a bright spot in the global economic landscape. However, its performance during Year 2024 was a mixed bag. While the economy displayed remarkable resilience in the face of global uncertainties, continued domestic issues impacting sentiments to a certain extent. Going forward, robust tax collections, government's thrust on infrastructure and private capex aided by policy reforms is likely to drive the GDP growth.

As per the RBI forecast, the real GDP growth of the Indian economy for the FY24-25 is expected to be around 6.6% which continues to remain the fastest growing globally.



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The Indian automobile industry is one of the key drivers of growth for the economy, presently the third largest in the world and expected to become No. 1 in the next five years.

The auto sector has started showing signs of recovery. Two & three-wheeler sales have witnessed a strong growth and the passenger car segment continues to grow at a low single digit. Tractor demand is also rising, supported by healthy Agri production. The CV segment is anticipated to benefit from the increased public and private capex and consumption boosting measures announced in the Union Budget.

Coming to our Performance during Q3FY25, we achieved a healthy growth in the replacement market on a QoQ basis. However, modest growth in the OEM limited the overall domestic growth, which reflected broader economic trends. Going forward, the replacement market demand remains promising, and the OEM segment is on a recovery path.

Export were sustained on YoY basis despite global uncertainties, trade challenges and supply chain constraints.

In Q3FY25, operating margins were impacted by increasing raw material costs, particularly in the natural rubber. To mitigate cost pressures, the company continues to take necessary measures including price revisions, enhancing product mix and cost optimization.

TBR and PCR continues to be critical for the business segment for us and we are strategically enhancing capacities in a calibrated manner. Earlier announced expansion projects at Banmore Tyre Plant for PCR and Laksar Tyre plant for TBR are progressing well with the state-of-the-art equipment being installed.

Our radial capacity continues to be optimally utilized, and our focus is to sweat our access to maximum to generate higher return for shareholders.

Our clear focus on technological advancements in product design and research and development has allowed us to set new benchmarks within the industry. Further, we are strengthening our tech-enabled manufacturing efforts to improve efficiency while ensuring highest quality standards. These efforts are being recognized by the OEMs and are also facilitating the expansion of our global footprint.

As a part of our digital transformation journey, we have recently established Digital and Analytics Centre of Excellence to enhance data-driven operational efficiencies.

JK Tyre is the first Indian Tyre company to join the Global RE100 Club, targeting for 100% renewable electricity by 2050.



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JK Tyre is a sustainably led organization, focusing and investing resources in developing sustainable, innovative, and value-added products and in line with our vision to be a “Green and trusted mobility partner”, we have tied up tied Sustainability-Linked Loan with International Finance Corporation, a first in Indian tyre industry.

Now I would request Bajoria ji to talk about the performance of JK Tornel Mexico.

**Arun K Bajoria:**

Thank you very much MD sir. I will now share the brief highlights of Mexican economy and thereafter JK Tornel, Mexico for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of FY25.

As per the IMF - World Economic Outlook Report, Mexico's real GDP is projected to grow by 1.8% in 2024 and 1.4% in 2025.

Now, moving on to the financial performance of JK Tornel, revenues for Q3 stood at 1,282 million pesos, equivalent to Rs.507 crores compared to 1,301 million pesos in constant currency terms. The decline in revenue was primarily due to the Christmas holidays and the appreciation of the Indian rupee against the Mexican peso. However, EBITDA margin remained steady at 7.9%.

High raw material cost, particularly natural rubber prices, continue to be a key area of focus. The overall raw material basket in Q3 increased by approximately 12% on a quarter-on-quarter basis, which we have largely passed on to the customers. Additionally, the Mexican Peso depreciated by 6% against the US dollar in the last quarter, which should support JK Tornel's exports in the coming quarters.

Our capacity utilization in the PCR category remained high at 90% plus. To reinforce our dominance, we have launched new premium products in higher rim sizes, further strengthening our product portfolio, catering to the evolving needs of advanced markets like USA including domestic market.

As part of our strategy to expand in the domestic market, we continue to expand our distribution network. Additionally, we are supplying more cost-effective products to mass merchandisers.

We are proud to announce that JK Tornel plants in Mexico have been awarded with the prestigious “Sword of Honour” award by the British Safety Council. This recognition is a testament to our unwavering commitment to workplace health and safety management.

I would now request Mr. Sanjeev Aggarwal ji to talk about the Financial Performance of this Quarter.

**Sanjeev Aggarwal:**

Thank you, sir. So, let me brief you about the key highlights for Q3FY25.

The consolidated revenue for the quarter were recorded at 3694 crores which remained flat on YoY basis.



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EBITDA margins during the quarter were recorded at 9.1% vis-à-vis 12.2% in the previous quarter, which has contracted by 309 basis points due to sluggish demand in OEM and the higher raw material costs, primarily driven by a significant rise in natural rubber prices. Profitability at EBITDA level was recorded at Rs.335 crores in this quarter. Cash profit stood at Rs.212 crores and the profit after tax was recorded at Rs.57 crores.

Consolidated capacity utilization for the quarter was 78%, the utilization of radial capacity has remained over 80%. Consolidated exports stood at Rs.560 crores, flattish on year-on-year basis.

Subsidiary companies, Cavendish Industries Limited and JK Tornel, Mexico contributed significantly to the revenues and profitability on consolidated basis. Cavendish posted a top line of Rs.1,025 crores, the highest ever for a quarter with EBITDA of Rs.92 crores, registering a margin of 9%.

Earnings per share on a consolidated basis stood at Rs.1.88 per share during the quarter. Return ratios, ROCE and ROE continue to be in double-digit and net debt stood at Rs.4,319 crores for the quarter ended December '24 as against Rs.4,340 crores in the previous quarter. Leverage ratios i.e. Net debt to Equity and Net debt to EBITDA were at 0.89x and 2.4x as on December '24, respectively. The balance sheet of the company continues to remain healthy.

We have already circulated our earnings presentation, which is available on our website as well as on stock exchange websites, and now we open the forum for the Questions & Answers.

**Moderator:** Ladies and gentlemen, we will now begin with the question and answer session. The first question comes from the line of Abhishek Jain from Alfaccurate Advisors Private Limited. Please go ahead.

**Abhishek Jain:** Thanks for the opportunity. Sir, in this quarter, we have seen a very significant increase in the RM cost despite a small increase in the overall RM basket. So, I just wanted to understand what is the reason of this much of increase - is there any high cost of inventory which is likely to go down in the coming quarter? And the second is that the replacement volume was much better than the OEMs in this quarter despite we have seen a contraction in the margin. So, if you can throw some color on it?

**Anshuman Singhania:** Yes, the average raw material prices have increased 2% on a quarter-on-quarter basis and here I would say that the natural rubber prices have actually played little havoc and the reason of which is actually because of the season changing and the climatic impact in this availability of natural rubber plus labor availability as well in the Southeast Asian belt. So, all these has impacted in terms of the increase in the natural rubber prices. So, the whole basket of raw material prices have increased by 2% on a quarter-on-quarter basis.



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- Abhishek Jain:** But in our numbers, basically we see that there is an impact of 320 bps on the quarter-on-quarter basis on the RM cost. That is much higher than the increase in the RM basket. So, just wanted to understand, is it because of the higher cost of inventory that was lying at the company or something else?
- Anuj Kathuria:** Yes, actually, what happened is that in Q1 and Q2, we had taken some strategic stocking of the material which helped us to evade some of the cost in Q2. But then that strategic inventory had depleted and Q3 saw the full impact of the raw material.
- Sanjeev Aggarwal:** Okay. If I may add to what Anuj ji has just mentioned, the good thing is that most of the inventory has already been consumed in Q3, so in Q4, we can expect some improvement in margins unless there is again some increase in raw material prices going forward. Yes, there has been a major impact on EBITDA margins due to higher raw material cost in Q3.
- Anuj Kathuria:** Your other question was on the replacement volumes being higher and still the margins have got impacted in Q3. See, the margins have been impacted overall by the higher raw material cost as we explained. And just to clarify, replacement margins and OE margins are not very different. And in the case of OEMs, also the indexation is there with the raw material price increase. Although it comes at a lag, but still, we get it. In the replacement market passing on the raw material is again depending on the market dynamics. So, it has to be seen quarter-by-quarter, but i think so margins are not very different between replacement and OEM.
- Anshuman Singhania:** Just to tell you that replacement market in terms of the numbers from the previous corresponding quarter, we had grown at 16% and the passenger car radial had grown at 24%.
- Abhishek Jain:** Okay. Sir, in Mexico, basically there is a significant depreciation of Mexican Peso versus INR. So, that has gone down to 5 to 3.95. Despite that, very strong revenue growth was not seen on quarter-on-quarter in last three, four quarters in terms of the Mexican Pesos. So, just wanted to understand if we convert into the rupee, we indicated very hard impact on our revenue and the margin, so going ahead, what is your strategy to overcome from this problem, is there any hedging policy or anything else, and what is the impact of this depreciation?
- Arun K Bajoria:** We are doing two things: One, straightaway due to the Peso which has gone down to almost 20.5, in fact the day the president announced 25% import duty from Mexico into USA, the Peso touched 21 Peso to a Dollar. But now it is back to about 20.55. So, our exports are already taking place, but now we are going to increase our exports many more times so that we can get the advantage of this higher peso earning. So, that is one. And secondly, as I had mentioned that we are now supplying the tyres to the evolving needs of the advanced markets, that is higher rim sizes and that is going to be a little higher profitability margin as compared to the present product portfolio where we had higher rim sizes and now we have taken care of that action.



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- Abhishek Jain:** But we have seen that in the last quarter, we have the anti-dumping duties on the Chinese tyres plus you are talking with the export will grow significantly. Despite all these things we have not seen any improvement on the numbers even on the top line or even on the bottom line. So, just wanted to understand how the results will come?
- Arun K Bajoria:** See, the first thing which I had mentioned in my small opening remarks that Q3 typically is a shorter quarter because we have 16-days of closed plant in December due to Christmas holidays in Mexico. So, we are only working effectively for 2 Months and 17 days. So, that is the main reason. Despite all these, you are seeing a lower top line which you are absolutely right, but that will not happen in the Q4, which is January to March 2025.
- Abhishek Jain:** Okay. And my last question is on the Cavendish. So, there is strong growth quarter-on-quarter on the Cavendish. Is it because of some benefit of the amalgamation or is there any increase in the capacity utilization plus is there a decline on the margin on the Cavendish? So, despite that increase in the scale, there is a significant decline in margin, what is the reason for a significant increase in the top line on quarter-on-quarter basis?
- Anuj Kathuria:** Cavendish, as we said that it has done the ever best quarterly sales of Rs.1,025 crores. As we had earlier shared, we had a capex plan where the TBR capacity was increased. So, the impact of that is being seen now and going forward further impact will also be seen. On the declining of margins, it on account of impact of the raw material prices, although we have been trying our best to pass it on to the market. But again, Cavendish also has a sizable amount going into the replacement market. So, that is the reason. Moreover, the other things are exactly in line with the parent company. And on the merger, I don't think so there are any things as of now. Once it happens, then we will then see the impact of that.
- Abhishek Jain:** Thank you, sir. That's all for my side.
- Moderator:** Thank you. A reminder to all participants, you may press '\*' and '1' to ask a question. The next question comes from the line of Mithul Shah from DAM Capital. Please go ahead.
- Mithul Shah:** Thank you for the opportunity. Sir, just one clarification on this carry-forward inventory of high value in this quarter. So, as peers indicated due to raw material pressure Q3 versus Q4 gross margin would be more or less flattish or maybe even slightly adverse. Compared to that because of those carry-forward inventory, our margin was impacted much in Q3. Do we expect Q4 for JK gross margin level should be much better compared to Q3 if we assume raw material prices remain at the stable level?
- Anshuman Singhania:** Our outlook going forward is that demand in the replacement market is going to be promising. OE sector is right now in the recovery path. We are expecting the demand to improve and pick up in the



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government infrastructure, public and private capex cycles also to normalize in terms of the construction and industrial & mining activities. And I think the budget has also given lot of impetus to the MSME sector and the increase of spending from the middle class. So, on the whole, we are very optimistic on the outlook. Our thrust on premiumization continues across the sector.

**Mithul Shah:** Sir, I am asking for the impact of the carryforward inventory on margins Q3 versus Q4.

**Anuj Kathuria:** I have already indicated that because in Q3 the major impact was of the carryforward inventory. So, that is almost being utilized and unless there is some increase in raw material prices going forward again, so we can expect some improvement in margins.

**Mithul Shah:** Yes, sir. And second question is on Mexico operation. From Mexico how much would be the export to North America right now roughly?

**Arun K. Bajoria:** North America, about 5% of the total export because we are exporting more to Brazil and to Latin America. But we are now increasing our exports to USA with the higher rim sizes, but then on the other hand, I must tell you that this 25% duty on the imports from Mexico into America has been put on hold by the President of USA for about one month, during which time some negotiations are taking place, because as you would have read from the papers, immediately Mexico has imposed 25% duty on any import from USA into Mexico. So, naturally, now the Americans are reconsidering and let us see what happens. But as of now, there is not much of an impact on the exports to USA from Mexico.

**Mithul Shah:** Understood. So, 95% of the export is already protected?

**Arun K. Bajoria:** Yes. Thank you.

**Mithul Shah:** Last question is again on the replacement side. Within the replacement which segment from FY26 point of view you see to be the highest growth generator be it CV or farm equipment because CV was not great in past one or two years, so on that base, do you think CVs to come back significantly on the replacement side? I'm talking about the domestic market.

**Anuj Kathuria:** In the replacement market, we expect both the truck and bus radial as well as the passenger car radial to be the two growth segments. We have to wait and watch, because one thing which is clearly coming out is that the number of passenger cars that are getting into the market every month, is at a very high level, also, the replacement cycle is low because of the additional running of the vehicles. So, we expect that the total market potential for this year to further grow and with the improving road infrastructure, the government thrust on infrastructure for the mining activities will drive the demand for TBR as well. So, these are the two growth segments we look forward to. Just to add, the two





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wheeler also is doing well. So, the two wheelers also will see a very good demand in the market both in the OE as well as in the replacement.

**Mithul Shah:** Thanks, sir.

**Moderator:** A reminder to all participants, please press ‘\*’ and ‘1’ to ask a question. The next question comes from the line of Chirag Jain from Emkay Global Financial Services. Please go ahead.

**Chirag Jain:** Yes, sir, just wanted to get a sense in terms of pricing action that we have taken in various segments, if you can just share some thoughts over there?

**Anshuman Singhania:** We have increased our pricing on a quarter-on-quarter basis to 1% and wherever price revision we could do, we have done that, and also we have improved our product mix. There is still some under recovery of 4%- 5% yet to be done. We have to abide by the competitive market scenario. So, we will take that adequately when the opportunity is there.

**Chirag Jain:** Okay. And how is the capacity utilization looking like for us in terms of the key product segments including the recent expansion that we have undertaken?

**Anuj Kathuria:** So, in terms of capacity utilization for radial, we are in excess of 80%, for Bus also, utilizations are at around 70% plus, and this includes whatever capacities have already expanded that have been taken into consideration.

**Chirag Jain:** And for PCR?

**Anuj Kathuria:** PCR, as I said, it is close to 90%.

**Chirag Jain:** Okay. And do we see further scope for let's say major capex over the next one, one and a half years or we are fairly comfortable in terms of the capacities that we have?

**Anuj Kathuria:** We already have an ongoing capex program of Rs.1,400 crores, out of which Rs.1,000 crores plus is for the PCR expansion, which we've already shared and another Rs.400 odd crores is a combination of TBR and all steel light truck radial. That is going on track.

**Anshuman Singhania:** We are right now undertaking the implementation of above projects. We will assess the market going forward and announce capex further.

**Chirag Jain:** Okay. This capacity utilization numbers that we shared, that doesn't include these two expansion on PCR and all steel radial?

**Anuj Kathuria:** No, these are not yet in place.



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- Chirag Jain:** Understood. Understood. Yes. That's it from my side. I'll fall back in the queue.
- Moderator:** Thank you. The next question comes from the line of Amar Gaur from Axis Capital. Please go ahead.
- Amar Gaur:** Yes. Hi. Thanks for taking my question. I had two-fold questions. One, if you could please break down your growth in India business in terms of volumes and pricing?
- Anshuman Singhania:** Can you repeat your question please?
- Amar Gaur:** Yes. I just wanted to understand about 2% kind of growth that we have seen in the India business, how much of that was from pricing and how much was volume-led?
- Anuj Kathuria:** On a comparison with the previous quarter, there has been a growth in the volume by around 2% for the India operations and we have also had an improvement in the pricing by 1%.
- Amar Gaur:** Previous quarter you mean, Q2 FY25?
- Anuj Kathuria:** Yes, as compared to Q2 of FY25.
- Amar Gaur:** Okay. Could you also highlight which are the segments where you saw higher growth versus slightly lower growth, I know you indicated about OE and replacement, but in terms of end markets?
- Anuj Kathuria:** So, the growth came mainly from the PCR and the TBR segments and also in the 2/3 wheelers.
- Amar Gaur:** So, if I understand that correctly, in replacement, all the segments have done very well, but in OEs most of the segments have seen a decline, would that understanding be correct?.
- Anuj Kathuria:** OE, the major decline is in the TBR segment. On a year-on-year basis, actually passenger car was okay.
- Amar Gaur:** So, on a sequential basis?
- Anuj Kathuria:** It was better than the previous quarter in the OE.
- Amar Gaur:** Sir, maybe I missed the Cavendish number. Is it close to Rs.1,000 crores?
- Anuj Kathuria:** Rs.1,025 crores.
- Amar Gaur:** And sir, on the RM side, I know you answered this question. Let me ask you a little differently. So, if I look at the RM to sales, it's about 65% for the consolidated business, right, and you are talking about all the higher price RM has already been consumed. So, what kind of improvement can we



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expect sequentially on the RM side – would it be 100 bps, 200 bps anything you can indicate based on your purchases that have happened over the last two months or so?

**Anuj Kathuria:** See, just to clarify, what I said is that in Q1 and Q2, we were carrying some high cost inventories. I'm talking about raw material inventory. And in Q3, we have seen major impact of the high cost raw material inventory. What is expected is that going forward the RM basket may further likely increase by 1% to 2% in Q4. So, whatever inventories that we have been carrying from Q3 will give some impact in Q4.

**Amar Gaur:** Understood. And finally, if you can indicate what is the year to date capex that you have done and what you expect from the full year?

**Sanjeev Aggarwal:** So, as we discussed earlier, we have been implementing Rs.1,400 crores worth of capex at this point of time, and majorly this is for the expansion of PCR capacity at about Rs.1,025 crores and the balance Rs.400 crores is for the Truck & Bus and All steel light struck radial (ASLTR).

**Amar Gaur:** I wanted to know year to date how much capex have you done for this?

**Sanjeev Aggarwal:** This is again on an annual basis; the outlay is about Rs.800 crores in these three quarters period. We have already spent about Rs.600 crores.

**Amar Gaur:** Alright. Thanks. All the best.

**Moderator:** Thank you. Participants, please press ‘\*’ and ‘1’ to ask a question. The next question comes from the line of Abhishek Jain from Alfaccurate Advisors Private Limited. Please go ahead.

**Abhishek Jain:** Sir, how much is the current debt of the company and what is your debt reduction plan, and the company has taken a loan from the IFC, how much benefit comes in?

**Abhishek Jain:** How much is the current net debt of the company and what's your debt reduction going ahead?

**Sanjeev Aggarwal:** So, the Net Debt of the company as on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec'24 was Rs.4,317 crores which is net of the cash available with the company and the \$100 million loan which we have tied up with IFC is for the expansions which are under implementation at this point in time and partly this loan will be used for replacing the high-cost debt in Cavendish Industries Limited.

**Abhishek Jain:** Okay. And our debt reduction plan for the medium term, sir?

**Sanjeev Aggarwal:** The line is not very clear. Can you repeat.

**Abhishek Jain:** How much is the debt reduction plan in the middle term?



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- Sanjeev Aggarwal:** Debt reduction on the long-term borrowing spaces, we have been going ahead as per schedule and as we envisaged earlier. It's only in the short term the working capital borrowings have gone up in the last nine months period and this is to maintain the strategic inventory and also some finished goods inventory were accumulated but this is going to get corrected in next one or two quarters.
- Abhishek Jain:** So, that means that finance cost will go down in the next financial year?
- Sanjeev Aggarwal:** Yes, we are hoping for that.
- Abhishek Jain:** Okay. And sir, with combined installed capacity is around 35 million tyres per annum, with that around 82% to 83% capacity utilization currently, the total revenue is around Rs.3,650 or Rs.3,700 crores, if we take the 95% capacity also, peak revenue would be around Rs.4,300 crores. So, adding another Rs.1,400 crores kind of the capex, so that means the quarterly run rate of that would be around Rs.350 crores. So, can you explain that peak revenue on a quarterly basis would be around 4,700 crores post this completion of capex?
- Sanjeev Aggarwal:** So, two things. One is that the major expansion is for PCR capacities and the total capacity utilization at this point in time in PCR as Anuj ji mentioned earlier was 90% plus and also for the Truck and bus radial is quite high. The overall utilization is at about 80% because of the bias capacity. So, the overall revenue definitely will go up in two years period almost equivalent to the amount of investments of Rs.1,400 crores plus.
- Abhishek Jain:** And my last question is on FY'26. What kind of the margin target do you have, given that RM cost will be stable at this point of time?
- Anuj Kathuria:** See, what is expected is that it all depends on how the raw material basket plays out. We expect that it should not be as volatile as it was, plus we will also be making our best efforts to pass on whatever is the under recovery in FY25 to the market and FY26. So, both these efforts on both the sides should help normalization of the margins. So, generally, as we had earlier also said that in the longer term the industry is somewhere between that 12% to 15% range. So, let's see we will have to kind of keep it like that as of now, but maybe in the next quarter, we will be able to give you a sharper number on that.
- Abhishek Jain:** Thank you. That's all from my side.
- Moderator:** Thank you. Participants please press '\*' and '1' to ask a question. Ladies and gentlemen, as there are no further questions, I would now like to handover the conference to the management for closing remarks.



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**Sanjeev Aggarwal:** Thank you so much for participating in our Q3 Earnings Call today and I hope we have given you all the clarifications to your questions and I would like to once again thank you on behalf of JK Tyre. Thank you very much.

**Moderator:** Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of Emkay Global Financial Services, that concludes this conference. You may now disconnect your lines.

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