

# ITC Profit Up Over 11% in Q4, Crosses Pre-Pandemic Level

Net profit rises to ₹4191 crore; revenues also up 16% on strong business growth

Our Bureau

**Kolkata:** ITC posted 16% growth in revenue from operations at ₹16,426 crore for the fourth quarter ending March as compared to the same period last year, while net profit went up by 11.8% to ₹4190.96 crore in the period under review. The conglomerate said there was strong growth across all businesses despite the third Covid wave

The results, announced after market hours, exceeded street expectations for both revenue and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (Ebitda). In fact, the ITC scrip gained 0.72% to close at ₹266.5 on the Bombay Stock Exchange on Wednesday, when the Sensex closed at a decline of 0.2%.

For last financial year (2021-22), ITC's gross revenue increased by 22.7% at ₹59,101.09 crore as compared to the year before, Ebitda increased by 22% to ₹18,933.66 crore and net profit went up by 15.5% at ₹15,057.83 crore. The results surpassed pre-pandemic levels.

The conglomerate also appointed its chief financial officer Supratim Dutta as a wholetime director for a period of three years with effect from July 22. Industry executives said executive director Rajiv Tandon, who was the erstwhile CFO and currently responsible for finance and accounting, will superannuate on July 21 and will be succeeded by Dutta.



ITC in its earnings release said the operating environment during the year remained extremely challenging and was marked by heightened uncertainty and volatility due to the pandemic, unprecedented inflation, and the geopolitical tensions towards the end of the year exacerbated the situation.

"In spite of significant disruptions during the year, the company's consumer-centricity, agility in seizing market opportunities, focus on execution excellence harnessing learnings from previous waves and proactive strategic interventions enabled it to post robust growth in revenues and profits, surpassing pre-pandemic levels," it said. The board has recommended a final dividend of ₹6.25 per share of ₹1 each for the last fiscal. This is in addition to the interim dividend of ₹5.25 per share. ITC's flagship cigarette business progressively recovered last

fiscal due to improved mobility and easing of restrictions, surpassing pre-pandemic levels in the latter half of the year. As per Edelweiss, the cigarette business sales volume growth was 9% last quarter. The cigarette business segment revenue went up by 15.3% for FY22 at ₹23,451.39 crore as compared to FY21, while the segment profit improved by 16.9% at ₹14,869 crore.

The non-cigarette FMCG business segment revenue grew by 8.6% at ₹15,994.49 crore in the last fiscal on a relatively high base and was up 25% over FY20. ITC said after a relatively subdued first half, revenue in the second half of the year witnessed double-digit growth. The segment Ebitda for the year grew by 10% to ₹1448.97 crore with margins being sustained at 9.1% in spite of unprecedented inflationary headwinds, ITC said.

"Staples and convenience foods remained resilient even as the pace of revenue growth witnessed moderation on a relatively high base. Discretionary and out-of-home categories recorded strong growth surpassing pre-pandemic levels driven by progressive improvement in mobility and favourable comparables," ITC said.

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