Suzlon Energy Ltd — FY 2023 Annual Report Analysis

Annual Report Analysis (Consolidated)

Investor Snapshot

#	Analytical point	Sentiment
1	**Suzlon maintains a dominant 33% cumulative market share in the Indian wind energy sector, providing a strong competitive moat despite recent operational volatility.**	—
2	***Revenue contracted by 9% YoY to 5,971 Cr, indicating significant execution headwinds and a slowdown in Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) volumes.***	—
3	Operating profit fell by 7.4%, though the launch of the high-yield 3 MW S144 series turbine is positioned as the primary driver for future margin protection.	—
4	***Reported PAT of 2,887 Cr is fundamentally misleading, as 94% (2,719 Cr) stems from a one-time, non-cash exceptional gain related to debt restructuring.***	—
5	**Total debt was aggressively reduced by 70% to □1,938 Cr through equity conversion and refinancing, resulting in a 42.7% reduction in finance costs.**	—
6	***Liquidity remains extremely tight with the Auditor issuing an "Emphasis of Matter" on Going Concern status, citing dependency on mandatory asset monetization.***	—
7	Capex of □101 Cr remains focused on survival and essential product development rather than aggressive capacity expansion.	—
8	***Earnings quality is severely compromised by 629.64 Cr in trade receivables (53.8% of total) overdue for >365 days, posing a substantial write-off risk.***	—
9	***Governance concerns persist due to a SEBI Show Cause Notice on historical RPTs and a 334% hike in KMP pay despite declining operating performance.***	—
10	***Regulatory and financial risks are elevated by a 18,876 Cr deficit in reserves and delays in depositing statutory dues due to cash flow mismatches.***	—
11	The outlook is contingent on the successful adoption of the S144 turbine and the stability of the high-margin Operation and Maintenance Services (OMS) segment.	—
12	Investment View: Watch; stance is neutral as the "technical recovery" must now be validated by 20%+ revenue growth and a 30% reduction in stale receivables.	—

1. Business overview (In Bullet Points)

- **Business Segments:** Suzlon operates as a vertically integrated wind energy player through two primary engines: **Wind Turbine Generator (WTG)** manufacturing and Operations and Maintenance Services (OMS).
- **Revenue Drivers:** WTG drives the order book and market share, while the OMS segment (Global Services) acts as a defensive moat, managing over 14.2 GW of installed capacity in India.
- **Cost Drivers:** The cost structure is heavily influenced by raw material prices (steel, resin, carbon fiber) and logistics; the company is transitioning to an asset-light execution model to improve operating leverage.
- **Industry Position:** Suzlon maintains a dominant **33% cumulative market share** in India and a global footprint of 20 GW.

- **Expansion Plans:** Strategic focus has narrowed toward the Indian market, leveraging policy tailwinds like ISTS charge waivers and RPO mandates.
- **Acquisitions & Divestments:** The company divested non-core assets, including Suzlon Generators Ltd and Vayudoot Solarfarms, to focus capital on the core wind value chain.
- **Capacity Additions:** The company's competitive advantage is anchored in its **3 MW Series (S144)**, a large-rotor platform engineered for India's low-wind regimes with 85-90% domestic value addition.
- **Segment Performance:** OMS provides high-margin, recurring revenue that de-risks the cyclicality of the manufacturing business.
- **Geographical Presence:** While possessing a global footprint, the current strategy is focused on the Indian market where annual industry additions are expected to reach 3.5 GW to 4.5 GW.

2. Management commentary & outlook

- Management has shifted the strategic narrative from "survival and restructuring" to "growth and technology leadership," following a "pivot to stability" phase.
- The achievement of **Net Zero Debt** status (post-FY23 capital raises) is claimed as a structural change to the company's risk profile.
- Management expects the Indian wind market to witness a **50% CAGR** in the near term, driven by the shift from standalone wind projects to Hybrid (Wind-Solar) and Round-the-Clock (RTC) power projects.
- The internal focus is on the serial launch of the **S144 (3 MW) turbine**, which is expected to be the primary volume driver and energy yield improver (40-43% over previous models).
- The company is positioning itself as an "integrated RE solutions" partner, specifically targeting Commercial & Industrial (C&I) customers seeking 20-25% RE consumption shares.
- Management is emphasizing the "OMS Multi-Brand" service to capture a share of the $10 Billion asset management pool in India by servicing non-Suzlon turbines.
- The leadership transition to Vinod Tanti (CMD) and Girish Tanti (Vice Chairman), with J.P. Chalasani as Group CEO, signals a preference for institutional memory and execution stability.
- Management remains confident in meeting obligations through order execution and mandatory asset monetization required by new lenders.
- **Management Tone:** Resilient and Opportunistic. Management has successfully navigated a leadership vacuum and a decade-long debt crisis, shifting from an apologetic restructuring tone to an aggressive growth-oriented stance. However, a slight disconnect exists between the celebratory "Net Zero Debt" narrative and the auditor's cautionary notes regarding short-term liquidity and SEBI legalities.

3. Financial analysis

3.1 Financial statements

P&L statement (□Cr)

Line item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Sales	5,971	6,582
Sales Growth %	-9	97
Expenses	5,137	5,682
Material Cost %	63	66
Raw material cost	3,627	4,092
Change in inventory	156	240
Manufacturing Cost %	7	7
Employee Cost %	10	8
Other Cost %	6	5
Operating Profit	833	900
OPM %	14	14
Other Income	2,739	95
Exceptional items	2,719	73
Other income normal	20	22
Interest	421	735
Depreciation	260	260
Profit before tax	2,892	0
Tax %	0	41,648
Net Profit	2,887	-177
Profit from Associates	0	-10
Minority share	-38	-23
Exceptional items AT	2,715	-111
Profit excl Excep	172	-65
Profit for PE	170	-88
Profit for EPS	2,849	-200
Profit Growth %	293	87
EPS (□)	2.28	-0.17
Dividend Payout %	0	0

Balance sheet (□Cr)

Line item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Equity Capital	2,454	1,843
Reserves	-1,355	-5,369
Borrowings	1,938	6,465
Long term Borrowings	1,517	5,592
Short term Borrowings	388	798
Lease Liabilities	33	75
Preference Capital	0	2,224
Other Borrowings	0	-2,224
Other Liabilities	2,486	3,535
Non controlling int	0	-36
Trade Payables	895	1,840
Advance from Customers	0	0
Other liability items	1,592	1,731
Total Liabilities	5,523	6,475
Fixed Assets	866	1,059
Land	124	310
Building	553	551
Estates	0	0
Plant Machinery	962	984
Computers	103	91
Furniture n fittings	53	52
Vehicles	41	29
Wind turbines	17	19
Intangible Assets	0	0
Other fixed assets	814	1,160
Gross Block	2,665	3,193
Accumulated Depreciation	1,799	2,134
CWIP	6	20
Investments	0	0
Other Assets	4,651	5,396
Inventories	1,827	2,208
Trade receivables	1,170	1,377
Receivables over 6m	767	774
Receivables under 6m	611	873
Prov for Doubtful	-208	-270
Cash Equivalents	367	500

Line item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Loans n Advances	20	92
Other asset items	1,266	1,219
Total Assets	5,523	6,475

Cash flow statement (□Cr)

Line item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Cash from Operating Activity	491	1,302
Profit from operations	1,025	1,135
Receivables	193	-230
Inventory	381	-49
Payables	0	0
Loans Advances	0	0
Other WC items	-1,093	436
Working capital changes	-519	157
Direct taxes	-15	9
Cash from Investing Activity	85	-19
Fixed assets purchased	-101	-77
Fixed assets sold	86	1
Investments purchased	0	0
Investments sold	10	10
Interest received	12	16
Dividends received	0	0
Invest in subsidiaries	0	0
Redemp n Canc of Shares	77	11
Acquisition of companies	0	0
Inter corporate deposits	0	0
Other investing items	0	20
Cash from Financing Activity	-709	-1,045
Proceeds from shares	1,080	0
Proceeds from debentures	0	0
Proceeds from borrowings	3,045	0
Repayment of borrowings	-4,384	-723
Interest paid fin	-425	-322
Dividends paid	0	0
Financial liabilities	-24	0
Share application money	0	0
Application money refund	0	0
Other financing items	0	0
Net Cash Flow	-133	238
Free Cash Flow	477	1,226
CFO/OP	61	144

Key ratios

Line item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Debtor Days	72	76
Inventory Days	176	186
Days Payable	86	155
Cash Conversion Cycle	162	107
Working Capital Days	66	16
ROCE %	20	21

3.2 Financial analysis summary

- **Revenue** witnessed a 9.00% YoY decline to □5,971.00 Cr, primarily driven by an 8.79% drop in Revenue from contracts with customers (□5,946.84 Cr), signaling a slowdown in Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) sales and project execution.
- **Operating Profit** margins remained stable at 14.00%, but PAT surged to □2,887.00 Cr due to a massive non-cash Exceptional Item of □2,719.00 Cr arising from the extinguishment of restructured debt facilities, which artificially inflates earnings and results in a misleading ROE of 262.66%.
- **Finance Cost** decreased by 42.71% to □421.00 Cr following the "Refinancing Proposal" that replaced high-cost debt with new Rupee Term Loans from REC and IREDA, directly contributing to the reduction in Total Debt from □6,465.00 Cr to □1,938.00 Cr.
- **Working Capital** management deteriorated as the Cash Conversion Cycle elongated from 107 to 162 days, largely because Days Payable dropped sharply from 155 to 86 days as the company cleared 51.39% of its Trade Payables (□895.00 Cr vs □1,840.00 Cr) using cash from refinancing and equity proceeds.
- **Trade Receivables** quality is a significant concern, with □629.64 Cr (53.79% of total) being overdue for more than 365 days, creating a disconnect where Revenue is recognized but CFO is constrained, as seen in the low CFO/PAT ratio of 0.17.
- **Inventory** levels reduced by 17.25% to □1,827.13 Cr, providing a □381.00 Cr boost to CFO, yet the overall Working Capital changes were a negative □519.00 Cr drag on cash due to the massive reduction in payables and a □1,093.00 Cr outflow in Other WC items.
- **Net Worth** turned positive at □1,099.14 Cr following the conversion of 410,000 Optionally Convertible Debentures (OCDs) into equity and a □1,080.00 Cr rights issue, though Reserves still carry a massive deficit of -□18,876.30 Cr.
- **Cash from Financing Activity** showed a net outflow of □709.00 Cr, where □3,045.00 Cr in new borrowings and □1,080.00 Cr from share proceeds were entirely consumed by □4,384.00 Cr in Repayment of borrowings, leaving Cash Equivalents lower at □367.00 Cr.
- **Capex** remains restricted at a minimal □101.00 Cr, while Fixed assets sold generated □86.00 Cr; the "Going Concern" status is dependent on "monetisation of specified assets" required by new lenders, suggesting a forced liquidation environment.
- **Provisions** for "Operation, maintenance and warranty" and "Performance guarantees" increased by 20.06% to □737.27 Cr, while Performance Guarantee Exp in the P&L rose 43.77%, signaling rising technical claims or underperformance risks in the installed fleet.
- **Other Assets** include □433.14 Cr in Non-current Other Financial Assets, which likely represent restricted deposits linked to the REC/IREDA refinancing, further locking up liquidity that cannot be used for operational growth.

- **Other Liabilities** are impacted by Contract liabilities of ₹573.04 Cr (up 20.07%), indicating advances or unearned revenue that may be subject to project timeline risks.
- **Other Expenses** were impacted by Performance Guarantee Exp rising to ₹103.23 Cr, suggesting higher technical costs for maintaining the existing fleet.
- **Overall Synthesis:** Suzlon has successfully executed a massive balance sheet "repair" through debt-to-equity swaps and refinancing, resulting in a technical return to positive net worth and lower interest costs, yet the business remains operationally fragile with declining revenues, poor receivable quality, and a "Going Concern" status that is heavily contingent on meeting strict lender-mandated asset sale targets.

3.3 Contingent liabilities & commitments

- **SEBI Show Cause Notice:** Material SCN regarding specific transactions between the Holding Company and domestic subsidiaries for FY 2013-14 to 2017-18. A settlement application has been filed without admission of guilt.
- **Pending Litigations:** Disclosed in Note 41; management claims no material impact is expected, though the auditor includes this as a point of emphasis.
- **Capital Commitments:** The "Going Concern" status is contingent on meeting strict lender covenants, including mandatory asset monetization.

3.9 Earnings quality & forensic checks

#	Check	Impact	Status	Notes detail
1	PAT vs CFO trend	Profit ↑ — non-cash exceptional gain of □2,720 Cr inflates PAT without generating operational cash.	—	Note 34: Gain from extinguishment of restructured debt facilities is non-cash.
2	Receivables & channel-stuffing signal (receivables + inventory build vs revenue)	Profit ↓ — high overdue receivables (>365 days) suggest potential future credit loss provisions.	—	Auditor KAM: Significant recoverability risk and potential inadequacy of the ECL model.
3	Revenue timing (unbilled / contract assets + deferred revenue / advances)	Revenue ↑↓ — lumpy project-based recognition and variable consideration estimates create significant timing volatility.	—	Note 2.4(f): WTG recognized at point-in-time; Note 3.1: Variable consideration includes penalties.
4	Revenue from related parties %	Neutral — SEBI investigation into historical RPTs suggests potential governance risks and liabilities.	—	Note 5: Settlement application filed for transactions between Holding Co and subsidiaries.
5	Inventory vs revenue growth	Profit ↑ — inventory liquidation exceeds sales decline, potentially boosting short-term cash but signaling slowdown.	—	Working Capital Deep Dive: Inventory reduced by □380.77 Cr during the year.
6	Inventory valuation method change	Neutral — consistent application of valuation policies despite high sensitivity to impairment assumptions.	—	Note 2.4(p): Impairment based on 5-year cash flow forecast and value-in-use.
7	Exceptional items in operating profit	Profit ↑ — massive non-recurring accounting gain from debt restructuring masks underlying operational performance.	—	Note 34: Gain relates to extinguishment of restructured facilities via equity conversion.
8	Depreciation rate vs useful life policy	Neutral — depreciation remains stable at □260 Cr despite significant changes in asset base.	—	Note 2.4(l): Development expenditures capitalized only upon demonstration of technical feasibility.
9	Provision reversals boosting PAT	Profit ↓ — rising performance guarantee and warranty provisions indicate higher technical costs for installations.	—	Note 2.4(p): Total provisions increased 20.06% YoY to □737.27 Cr.
10	Tax rate consistency + cash tax vs P&L tax	Profit ↑ — zero tax expense on accounting profits due to utilization of past losses.	—	P&L Statement: Direct taxes paid in cash were only □15 Cr.
11	CWIP age and stalling projects	Neutral — minimal CWIP balance suggests limited risk of capital loss from stalled projects.	—	Balance Sheet: Fixed assets gross block reduced from □3,193 Cr to □2,665 Cr.
12	Deferred tax asset recognition adequacy	Profit ↓ — write-down of deferred tax assets reflects management's conservative outlook on future profits.	—	Note 2.4(h): DTA recognized only to the extent of probable future taxable profits.
13	RPT quantum and trend	Neutral — potential cash outflows for SEBI settlement regarding historical subsidiary transactions remain unprovisioned.	—	Note 5: Management filed settlement application without admission of guilt for historical RPTs.
14	Dividend paid vs FCF adequacy	Neutral — zero dividends prioritized to conserve cash for mandatory debt repayment and restructuring.	—	Note 49(h): New loan covenants require asset monetization and strict liquidity management.
15	Going Concern Uncertainty		—	

#	Check	Impact	Status	Notes detail
		Profit ↑↓ — Reliance on asset monetization and lender covenants creates risk of default.		Material uncertainty regarding fulfillment of RTL conditions and asset monetization.
16	Subsidiary Exposure	Neutral — Massive intra-group dependency and outstanding balances with subsidiaries.	—	34.9% of revenue tied to intra-group exposure; potential for cash leakage.

4. Management & governance

A. Auditor report & key audit matters

- **Audit opinion type:** Unqualified with Emphasis of Matter.
- **Key Audit Matters (KAMs):**
  1. **Refinancing Accounting:** Auditor scrutinized the "extinguishment of existing restructured facilities" resulting in a 2,720.60 Cr gain. This involved high judgment regarding the timing and valuation of equity instruments issued to lenders.
  2. **Going Concern Assumption:** Auditor identified "material uncertainty" regarding the fulfillment of Rupee Term Loan (RTL) conditions, specifically asset monetization. Management is confident in meeting obligations through order execution.
  3. **ECL on Trade Receivables:** Auditor challenged management's judgment on the recoverability of 629.64 Cr of overdue receivables (>365 days). The concern is that the "simplified approach" for ECL may not capture the credit deterioration of old customers.
- **Emphasis of Matter:** Note 5 (SEBI SCN) and Note 49(h) (Going Concern uncertainty).
- **Auditor Fees/Independence:** Walker Chandiok & Co LLP appointed for 5 years. The auditor's focus on high-judgment areas suggests a robust challenge to management.

B. Related party transactions

Party	Relationship	Nature	Amount (□ Cr)	Concern
Suzlon Global Services Limited	Subsidiary	Outstanding Balance	1,219.12 Cr	High concentration of intra-group exposure
AE Rotor Holding B.V.	Subsidiary	Outstanding Balance	756.72 Cr	Significant offshore entity exposure
Suzlon Gujarat Wind Park Ltd	Subsidiary	Outstanding Balance	82.39 Cr	Intra-group receivable risk
SE Forge Limited	Subsidiary	Outstanding Balance	25.29 Cr	Operational dependency

- **RPT Risk Checks:** Outstanding balances with subsidiaries represent **34.93% of Revenue** and 424.74% of CFO.
- **Governance Red Flag:** SEBI Show Cause Notice regarding transactions with domestic subsidiaries (FY14-18). Management filed a settlement application without admission of guilt.

C. Shareholding

- **Equity Capital:** □2,454.00 Cr (Mar 2023) vs □1,843.00 Cr (Mar 2022).

- **Pledged shares:** Not disclosed in the provided AR snippet.

D. Board composition + KMP compensation

- **Total Directors:** 10 | **Independent %:** 50.00% | **Women Directors:** 1 (10.00%).
- **KMP Compensation (EBITDA used: □833.00 Cr):**

KMP	Role	FY current rem (□Cr)	YoY growth %	% of EBITDA	Flag
Late Tulsi R. Tanti	Erstwhile CMD	5.00 Cr (rate)	334.43%	0.60%	—
Vinod R. Tanti	CMD	5.00 Cr (rate)	110.37%	0.60%	—
Ashwani Kumar	Group CEO	Not disclosed	69.45%	—	—
Himanshu Mody	Group CFO	Not disclosed	52.00%	—	—

- **Analysis:** Compensation growth (52% to 334%) is decoupled from operational performance (EBITDA fell 7.44%). **Vinod R. Tanti** (CMD), Girish R. Tanti (EVC), and Pranav T. Tanti (NED) are all from the same family.

F. Capital allocation & capex

Action	FY current (□Cr)	FY prior (□Cr)	% of CFO	Signal
Debt Repayment	4,384.00 Cr	723.00 Cr	892.87%	—
Equity Issuance	1,080.00 Cr	0.00 Cr	220.00%	—
Asset Sales	86.00 Cr	1.00 Cr	17.51%	—
Capex	101.00 Cr	77.00 Cr	20.57%	—
Interest Payments	425.00 Cr	322.00 Cr	86.56%	—

- **CAPEX Analytical Notes:**
  - CFO (□**491.00 Cr**) covers modest capex (□101.00 Cr) at 4.86x, but is insufficient for debt obligations.
  - **The introduction of the 3 MW S144 series is the primary growth capex focus, aiming to reduce LCoE.**
  - Revenue fell 9% despite a 31% increase in capex, indicating new product cycles have not yet translated to growth.
  - **Future value depends entirely on the market reception of the S144 turbine.**

H. Risks

- **Litigation (SEBI):** Show Cause Notice for past RPTs; potential cash penalties and reputational damage. **Impact: High.**
- **Going Concern:** Reliance on asset monetization for loan covenants; failure could trigger default. **Impact: High.**
- **Credit Risk: □629.64 Cr** receivables > 365 days (53.79% of total); high risk of write-offs. Impact: High.
- **Operational Risk: 43.77% increase** in performance guarantee expenses suggests technical issues in the field. Impact: Medium.
- **Concentration:** Lumpy revenue profile dependent on project cycles. **Impact: Medium.**

5. Scorecard & verdict

Part a: scorecard

Dimension	Rating (1–5)	Delta	Key evidence	One-line rationale
Business quality	3	→	33% Market Share; 9% Revenue decline	Dominant market position offset by cyclicality and recent revenue contraction.
Financial health	2	↑	D/E 1.76x; CFO < Debt Repayment	Balance sheet repaired via dilution, but liquidity remains extremely tight.
Earnings quality	1	↓	94% of PAT is non-cash gain; 53.8% Receivables >1yr	PAT is an accounting artifact; significant risk of receivable write-offs.
Management & governance	2	↓	SEBI SCN; KMP pay growth >300%	Legacy RPT issues and aggressive family compensation despite poor performance.
Capital allocation & earnings visibility	2	→	Capex ₹101 Cr; Asset monetization dependency	Focus is on survival/debt repair rather than growth; visibility tied to asset sales.

Business positives (for this company this year) * **Debt Reduction:** Total debt reduced from ₹6,465 Cr to ₹1,938 Cr through successful refinancing and equity conversion. * **Net Worth Recovery:** Consolidated Net Worth turned positive at ₹1,099.14 Cr after years of deficit. * **Technology Advancement:** Launch of the 3 MW S144 series turbine with 40-43% higher energy yield potential. * **Market Dominance:** Maintained a 33% cumulative market share in the Indian wind energy sector. * **Interest Savings:** Finance costs reduced by 42.71% YoY due to the replacement of high-cost debt.

Business negatives / concerns (for this company this year) * **Earnings Quality:** ₹2,719 Cr of the ₹2,887 Cr PAT is a non-cash exceptional gain from debt restructuring. * **Receivable Stress:** ₹629.64 Cr (53.8% of total) of trade receivables are overdue for more than 365 days. * **Governance Flags:** SEBI Show Cause Notice regarding historical RPTs and a settlement application filed. * **Liquidity Risk:** Auditor's "Going Concern" emphasis due to mandatory asset monetization requirements. * **Revenue Decline:** Sales fell 9% YoY, indicating a slowdown in project execution and WTG volume. * **Compensation Misalignment:** KMP remuneration increased up to 334% despite a decline in operating profit.

Overall scorecard summary Suzlon is in a state of "technical recovery" where the balance sheet has been repaired through massive equity dilution and accounting gains rather than operational cash flow. While the reduction in debt and the launch of the 3 MW turbine are positive steps, the underlying earnings quality is poor, characterized by non-cash profits and stale receivables. Governance remains a concern due to legacy SEBI investigations and family-centric compensation hikes. The business trajectory is stable but fragile, as it remains heavily dependent on meeting strict lender covenants and successfully monetizing assets.

Part b: governance check matrix

#	Check	Status
1	Audit opinion clean?	—
2	Promoter pledge = 0?	—
3	KMP pay < 5% of PAT?	—
4	RPT quantum < 5% of revenue?	—
5	Board > 50% independent?	—
6	At least 1 woman director?	—
7	No statutory dues outstanding?	—
8	No fraud reported?	—
9	Audit trail enabled?	—
10	Frequent Auditor change	—

Total: 7/10 — Governance Rating: 3

Part c: investor verdict

Thesis: A high-risk turnaround play where balance sheet survival has been bought through massive dilution, now dependent on the 3 MW product cycle and Indian policy tailwinds. **Overall stance:** Watch **Rationale:** Operational recovery (revenue growth and CFO) must now catch up to the "repaired" balance sheet to justify the current valuation. **Re-evaluate when:** Trade Receivables > 365 days reduce by at least 30% or WTG revenue grows by >20%. **BULL CASE:** Rapid adoption of the S144 turbine leads to 20%+ EBITDA margins and consistent positive FCF. **BEAR CASE:** Failure to monetize assets triggers a debt default; SEBI settlement results in massive cash penalties. **Key monitorable:** Trade Receivables > 365 days: □629.64 Cr → Watch for any further increase or write-offs.