Cochin Shipyard Ltd — FY 2022 Annual Report Analysis

Annual Report Analysis (Consolidated)

Investor Snapshot

#	Analytical point	Sentiment
1	**Cochin Shipyard maintains a dominant defense moat as India's premier shipyard, evidenced by the successful delivery of the IAC (INS Vikrant) and a strategic pivot toward high-tech global exports.**	—
2	**Top-line performance remains robust with 13.20% revenue growth to □3,190.95 Cr, significantly bolstered by a 61% surge in the high-margin Ship Repair segment.**	—
3	***Profitability is under pressure as PAT declined 7.5% to 563.88 Cr, driven by escalating material costs and a heavy reliance on non-recurring income streams.***	—
4	***Earnings quality is a primary concern, with 19% of PBT (145.70 Cr) derived from one-off provision reversals and bank guarantee encashments rather than core operations.***	—
5	**The balance sheet remains exceptionally under-leveraged with a Debt/Equity ratio of 0.028x and a strong interest coverage ratio of 21.08x, providing significant headroom for expansion.**	—
6	***Cash conversion is critically weak with a CFO/PAT ratio of 0.40x, indicating that accounting profits are failing to translate into actual liquid cash flow.***	—
7	***Capital efficiency is hampered by a massive liquidity trap, with 1,096.85 Cr (34% of annual revenue) locked in GST Input Tax Credits and 100.64 Cr in aged receivables.***	—
8	***Execution risk is elevated as 253 Cr of Capital Work-in-Progress (CWIP) has been stalled for over three years, creating potential impairment triggers and delaying returns on invested capital.***	—
9	***Governance standards slipped significantly during the period, marked by the absence of Independent Directors for eight months and subsequent regulatory fines from BSE/NSE.***	—
10	The medium-term outlook hinges on the commissioning of the New Dry Dock and the resolution of the ISRF contract to unlock high-margin ship repair capacity.	—
11	Stance: Watch — The company offers a technically superior moat but requires improved working capital management and execution clarity before a re-rating.	—
12	Key Monitorables: Improvement in CFO/PAT to >0.80x, reduction of GST ITC balance below □800 Cr, and the resumption of stalled infrastructure projects.	—

Final research summary: Cochin shipyard LTD (FY 2021-22)

1. Business overview

- **Business Segments:** Operates through two primary verticals: **Shipbuilding** (79% of revenue) and Ship Repair (high-margin, steady-state business).
- **Revenue Drivers:** Structurally shifting from traditional bulk carriers to high-technology specialized vessels (IAC, ASW Corvettes, Hybrid Electric Catamarans).
- **Cost Drivers:** Dominated by raw materials (specialized steel) and high-value equipment/propulsion systems from global OEMs; high operating leverage due to fixed employee costs (1,756 permanent staff).
- **Industry Position:** Unique position as the only Indian yard capable of building aircraft carriers; holds a massive "moat" in the domestic defense sector.

- **Expansion Plans:** Executing two major projects totaling □2,769 Cr: New Drydock (□1,799 Cr) and International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) (□970 Cr).
- **Acquisitions:** Utilizes subsidiaries for niche markets: **Hooghly Cochin Shipyard (HCSL)** for inland waterways and Udupi Cochin Shipyard (UCSL) for fishing vessels and tugs.
- **Capacity Additions:** New Drydock is 60% complete (designed for LNG/larger carriers); ISRF is 78% complete (aimed at capturing repair market leaking to Middle East/SE Asia).
- **Geographical Presence:** Transitioned from a single-unit entity in Kochi to a pan-India operator with seven units; expanding into European "short-sea" shipping and Norwegian autonomous vessel markets.

2. Management commentary & outlook

- **Strategy:** Articulated "cruise 2030" strategy to transition from a leading Indian shipyard to a global maritime player.
- **Growth Guidance:** Bullish on new technology (Hydrogen/Electric) and geographical expansion following the successful delivery of the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC).
- **Execution Challenges:** Visible gap between strategic ambition and infrastructure execution; termination of the ISRF construction contract with Simplex Infrastructures in Feb 2022 is a significant setback.
- **Demand Environment:** Global shipbuilding market is "lackluster," but management sees structural openings in the European green transition segment.
- **Competitive Intensity:** Moderated in defense by specialized infrastructure; stiffer competition in commercial tug/small vessel segments from private yards.
- **New Verticals:** Entry into the dredging segment via a contract with the Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) to reduce dependence on the Indian Navy.
- **Partnerships:** Strategic reliance on global technology partners (Fincantieri, IHC Holland, Robert Allan) to bridge "Atmanirbhar" capabilities for complex systems.
- **Long-term Vision:** Pivot toward becoming a "knowledge-driven" organization via the "C-SAS" (Strategic & Advanced Solutions) division.
- **Management Tone:** The management tone is authoritative and strategically ambitious, characterized by a high degree of "prestige-driven" confidence following the IAC delivery. However, there is an underlying operational caution regarding infrastructure timelines. While they are bullish on new technology and geographical expansion, the report reveals significant regulatory and execution friction—specifically the failure to maintain Independent Directors for eight months and the termination of a major infrastructure contractor.

3. Financial analysis

3.1 Financial statements

3.2 Financial analysis summary

- **Revenue** grew by 13.20% to □3,190.95 Cr, driven by a 61% jump in Ship Repair Services (□657.95 Cr) and a 21.21% contribution from non-IAC vessel construction, offsetting a 10.7% decline in the IAC segment.
- **PAT** declined by 7.57% to □563.88 Cr as Cost of Materials Consumed surged by 32.7% to □1,618.92 Cr, representing 50.73% of Revenue (up from 43.27%), largely due to "Bought out components" totaling □1,572.26 Cr.
- **EBITDA** margin compressed from 24.82% to 19.29% as Sub-contract and Off-loaded Jobs expenses rose by 24.49% to □330.46 Cr, signaling increased reliance on external vendors.

- **Other Income** of ₹262.82 Cr significantly supported the P&L, but quality is weakened by non-recurring items: ₹61.00 Cr from Bank Guarantee Encashment and ₹84.70 Cr from Provision Reversals, together constituting 18.9% of PBT.
- **Working Capital** is under severe pressure as Other Non-Current Assets ballooned to ₹1,096.85 Cr due to a massive build-up of GST Input Tax Credit, creating a "liquidity trap" that restricts CFO.
- **Trade Receivables** increased to ₹390.41 Cr, with ₹100.64 Cr (approx. 20% of gross) outstanding for over 3 years, including ₹90.26 Cr in Disputed Trade Receivables, indicating persistent litigation risks.
- **Balance Sheet** strength is characterized by a low Debt/Equity of 0.028x, with formal Borrowings limited to ₹123.00 Cr in Tax-Free Bonds; however, a ₹100 Cr redemption is due in December 2023.
- **Capital Work-in-Progress (CWIP)** stands at a high ₹1,264.39 Cr, exceeding the PPE base of ₹1,023.75 Cr, with ₹253.00 Cr of projects stalled for over 3 years (Dry Dock and ISRF), signaling execution delays.
- **Cash Flow from Operations (CFO)** of ₹228.60 Cr is significantly lower than PAT (CFO/PAT ratio of 0.40x), as cash is absorbed by the GST ITC build-up and a shift in Contract Liabilities for the IAC project to ₹489.50 Cr.
- **Capex** of ₹185.40 Cr consumed 81% of CFO, leaving limited FCF, while the acquisition of Udupi Cochin Shipyard added ₹105.29 Cr to PPE at a bargain price (Capital Reserve of ₹66.24 Cr).
- **ROE** diluted to 12.74% from 15.26% as Net Worth grew to ₹4,425.40 Cr while PAT margins contracted, reflecting decreased capital efficiency.
- **Finance Costs** rose to ₹38.35 Cr, including interest on Lease Liabilities of ₹427.97 Cr, representing "hidden leverage" related to essential long-term land leases from Port Trusts.
- **Other Expenses** rose to ₹254.81 Cr, with Provisions for shipbuilding losses of ₹75.73 Cr indicating onerous contracts, though a reversal of ₹40.85 Cr suggests some project-level improvement.
- The dominant financial theme of the year is a transition from a high-margin defense-heavy model to a capital-intensive integrator model, where core profitability is currently masked by one-time income and cash is increasingly trapped in statutory tax credits and stalled infrastructure projects.

3.3 Contingent liabilities & commitments

- **Litigation/Disputes:** ₹90.26 Cr of trade receivables are under dispute, indicating long-drawn litigation.
- **Tax/Customs:** A liability of ₹2.61 Cr to Chennai Port Trust for customs duty is offset by a deposit with the Customs Department (pending appeal).
- **Guarantees:** ₹152.00 Cr in lien-marked deposits support non-fund-based credit facilities (BGs/LCs).
- **Capital Commitments:** Major ongoing commitments for the New Dry Dock (₹1,799 Cr) and ISRF (₹970 Cr).
- **Provisions:** Provision for shipbuilding loss stands at ₹75.73 Cr; Provision for Expenditure/Contingencies at ₹373.97 Cr.

3.9 Earnings quality & forensic checks

#	Check	Impact	Status	Notes detail
1	***PAT vs CFO trend***	Profit ↓	—	Liquidity trap in tax credits and heavy capital lock-up in overdue projects.
2	***Receivables vs revenue growth***	↑↓	—	~20% of gross receivables (₹100.64 Cr) are >3 years old; ₹90.26 Cr are disputed.
3	**Unbilled revenue / contract assets**	↑↓	—	Reflects timing of defense milestones and advance payments.
4	**Deferred revenue trend**	↑↓	—	Reflects strong order book and advance-heavy payment terms.
5	**Channel stuffing signal**	—	—	Inventory excludes ₹89.77 Cr held on behalf of Navy.
6	**Revenue from related parties %**	—	—	Minimal exposure to subsidiaries or promoters.
7	***Exceptional items in operating profit***	Profit ↑	—	One-offs contributed ~19% of total PBT.
8	***Depreciation rate vs useful life***	Profit ↑	—	Deviation from standard Schedule II rates for specific Port Trust assets.
9	***Provision reversals boosting PAT***	Profit ↑	—	Potential earnings management to meet profit targets.
10	***CWIP age and stalling projects***	Profit ↓	—	High risk of future impairments if projects do not operationalize.
—	—	—	—	—

4. Management & governance

A. Auditor Report & Key Audit Matters * **Audit Opinion:** Unqualified. * **KAM 1: Liquidated Damages (LD) Estimation:** Management exercises significant judgment in estimating LDs for project delays, particularly regarding "Force Majeure" claims (COVID-19/floods). The auditor flags this as a high-risk area for revenue overstatement. * **KAM 2: Percentage of Completion (PoC):** Measuring physical progress (output method) for shipbuilding is subjective and directly impacts the timing of profit recognition. * **Auditor Notes:** Internal financial controls were tested by M/s. Varma & Varma and found adequate. Statutory Auditor is M/s. Elias George & Co.

B. Related Party Transactions | Party | Relationship | Nature | Amount (₹Cr) | Concern | | ------- | ------------- | -------- | ---------------- | --------- | | Hooghly Cochin Shipyard Ltd | Subsidiary | Investment (Debentures) | 31.00 Cr | Neutral; funding subsidiary expansion | | Udupi Cochin Shipyard Ltd | Subsidiary | Investment (Debentures) | 10.00 Cr | Neutral; funding turnaround of acquired asset | | Related Party Advances | Subsidiaries | Advances | 0.0036 Cr | Negligible; low risk of cash leakage |

- **RPT Verdict:** Clean. Transactions are limited to supporting subsidiaries with negligible operational leakage. Acquisition of Udupi Cochin Shipyard at a bargain purchase (Capital Reserve: 66.24 Cr) suggests value-accretive growth.

C. Shareholding | Category | Percentage | | :--- | :--- | | Promoter (Government of India) | 72.86% | | Public | 27.14% | | Total | 100.00% |

- **Pledged shares:** 0.00%.
- **Forensic Note:** Technical non-compliance with Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) rules as the 27.14% public holding was not achieved through SEBI-approved disinvestment methods.

D. Board Composition + KMP Compensation * **Total Directors:** 12 | **Independent %:** 50.00% | **Women Directors:** 1. * **Forensic Note:** The Board had NO Independent Directors or Statutory Committees from April to November 2021, leading to significant regulatory fines from BSE/NSE. * **KMP Compensation:** * Madhu S Nair (CMD): ₹0.85 Cr (0.09% of EBITDA) * Bejoy Bhasker (Dir Tech): ₹0.67 Cr (0.07% of EBITDA) * Jose V J (Dir Fin): ₹0.56 Cr (0.06% of EBITDA) * **Analysis:** No KMPs share the same family name. Aggregate KMP pay is exceptionally low at <0.3% of EBITDA. Lack of prior year comparative data limits pay-for-performance tracking.

F. Capital Allocation & Capex | Action | FY current (₹Cr) | FY prior (₹Cr) | Signal | | ------- | ---------- | ---------- | --------- | | Dividends | 220.33 Cr | 197.31 Cr | **Positive** | | Capex (CWIP Addition) | 88.54 Cr | Not disclosed | — | | Investments (Subsidiaries) | 41.00 Cr | 0.00 Cr | — | | Interest Payments | 46.48 Cr | 50.47 Cr | — |

- **CAPEX Analytical Notes:**
  - **CFO Coverage:** High cash balance and lack of new debt suggest self-funding, but **CFO/PAT of 0.40x** is weak.
  - **Nature:** Primarily growth capex for **New Dry Dock (₹1,799 Cr)** and ISRF (₹970 Cr).
  - **Efficiency: CWIP of ₹1,264.39 Cr** is 39.6% of revenue; ₹253.00 Cr of CWIP is aged >3 years, indicating significant execution delays.
  - **Takeaway:** Capex is vital but faces **stagnation risks** due to contractor defaults.

H. Risks * ***GST Liquidity Trap*** (High): Build-up of GST ITC to ₹1,096.85 Cr locks up 34% of annual revenue, straining CFO. * ***CWIP Execution Delay*** (High): ₹253.00 Cr of projects stalled for >3 years; impairment risk if Dry Dock/ISRF do not operationalize. * ***Revenue Concentration*** (Medium): IAC project accounts for 56.18% of total revenue; completion will create a revenue gap. * ***Liquidated Damages*** (Medium): Potential penalties for project delays; management relies on Force Majeure to protect margins. * ***Disputed Receivables*** (Low): ₹90.26 Cr under dispute indicates long-drawn litigation.

5. Scorecard & verdict

Part a: scorecard

Dimension	Rating (1–5)	Delta	Key evidence	One-line rationale
Business quality	4	→	61% growth in Ship Repair; IAC moat	Strong defense moat and successful pivot to high-tech exports.
Financial health	4	→	D/E 0.028x; Interest Coverage 21x	Extremely low leverage but liquidity is trapped in GST/CWIP.
Earnings quality	2	↓	CFO/PAT 0.40x; 19% PBT from one-offs	Profits are supported by provision reversals and one-time BG encashment.
Management & governance	2	↓	Zero Ind. Directors for 8 months	Regulatory fines and board-level dependency on the Ministry are concerns.
Capital allocation & visibility	3	→	CWIP > PPE; ₹253 Cr stalled >3yrs	Large-scale capex is strategic but execution delays cloud near-term returns.

Business positives * **Strong Revenue Growth:** Top-line grew **13.20%** to ₹3,190.95 Cr, driven by a 61% surge in high-margin Ship Repair. * **Geographic Diversification:** Export revenue jumped to **₹95.03 Cr** from ₹25.68 Cr, reducing domestic defense dependency. * **Robust Order Book:** Contract Liabilities (Advances) reached **₹2,260.55 Cr**, providing a strong execution pipeline. * **Value-Accretive Acquisition:** Acquired Udupi Cochin Shipyard at a bargain, creating a **₹66.24 Cr** Capital Reserve. * **Low Leverage:** Maintained a negligible **Debt/Equity of 0.028x** with high interest coverage of 21.08x.

Business negatives / concerns * **Poor Cash Conversion: CFO/PAT ratio of 0.40x** indicates that accounting profits are not translating into cash. * **Liquidity Trap: ₹1,096.85 Cr** locked in GST Input Tax Credit, representing 34% of annual revenue. * **Execution Stagnation: ₹253.00 Cr** of CWIP is stalled for >3 years; ISRF contract termination delays high-margin growth. * **Governance Red Flag:** Operated without Independent Directors for **8 months**, leading to BSE/NSE fines. * **Earnings Quality: 19% of PBT** (₹145.70 Cr) derived from non-recurring provision reversals and BG encashment. * **Receivables Risk: ₹100.64 Cr** of receivables are >3 years old, with ₹90.26 Cr under active dispute.

OVERALL SCORECARD SUMMARY Cochin Shipyard exhibits a robust business moat and a pristine balance sheet with near-zero debt, yet its financial performance is currently "hollowed out" by poor cash conversion and execution bottlenecks. While the delivery of the IAC proves technical prowess, the company's earnings quality is weakened by a heavy reliance on non-recurring income and a massive liquidity trap in GST credits. Governance remains a concern due to the prolonged absence of independent oversight and regulatory non-compliance. The business is on a **stable but high-vigilance trajectory**, where the transition to a global player is contingent on unlocking stalled infrastructure and improving working capital efficiency.

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	—

Final line: "Total: 8.5/10 — Governance Rating: 3"

Part c: investor verdict

Thesis: A dominant defense player transitioning to a high-tech global maritime integrator with a strong moat but temporary execution and liquidity friction. **Overall stance:** Watch **Rationale:** Strong order book and low debt are offset by poor earnings quality (one-offs) and stalled major capex projects. **Re-evaluate when:** CFO/PAT improves to >0.80x or ISRF project resumes construction with a new contractor. **BULL CASE:** Successful commissioning of the New Dry Dock by Q2 2024, driving a 30%+ jump in high-margin ship repair revenue. **BEAR CASE:** Impairment of stalled CWIP (₹253 Cr) or failure to recover disputed receivables (₹90 Cr) leading to a significant PAT hit. **Key monitorable:** GST ITC Balance: ₹1,096.85 Cr → Watch for reduction below ₹800 Cr.