Supriya Lifescience Ltd — FY 2024 Annual Report Analysis

Annual Report Analysis (Consolidated)

Investor Snapshot

#	Analytical point	Sentiment
1	**Supriya Lifescience maintains global leadership in niche APIs like Chlorphenamine, leveraging a 79% export mix and deep backward integration to secure a competitive moat.**	Positive
2	**Revenue grew 23.74% YoY to ₹5,703.70 Cr, supported by a 170% surge in customer advances which provides strong forward visibility for the order book.**	Positive
3	**Operating Profit Margins expanded significantly to 42.75% from 35.80%, driven by cost leadership and a shift toward regulated markets.**	Positive
4	***Net profit quality is undermined by trade receivables growing at 31.9%, outpacing revenue growth and suggesting potential channel stuffing or aggressive year-end booking.***	Negative
5	**The company achieved virtual debt-free status (D/E 0.02x) after repaying ₹166.25 Cr in loans, supported by a robust interest coverage ratio of 80x.**	Positive
6	**Cash flow generation improved through aggressive inventory optimization, with inventory days reducing from 225 to 162, releasing significant working capital.**	Positive
7	***Capital allocation is inefficient with ₹1,145.87 Cr (14% of Net Worth) locked in non-productive assets, specifically aged CWIP (>3 years) and stagnant property advances.***	Negative
8	***Earnings quality is rated low due to high capital lock-up and a new ₹30.39 Cr charge for interest on statutory liabilities, signaling tax compliance delays.***	Negative
9	***Governance remains a structural overhang as CMD remuneration reached ₹15.50 Cr (9.7% of PAT), significantly exceeding peer benchmarks and professional standards.***	Negative
10	***Risk profile is elevated by the retirement of the professional CEO, leaving the firm dependent on the promoter family during a critical generational transition.***	Negative
11	The outlook is a dichotomy of strong 25% PAT growth potential from capacity utilization versus the bear case risk of a ₹500 Cr+ impairment on stagnant assets.	Neutral
12	Investment View: Watch; maintain a cautious stance until aged CWIP reduces by >₹200 Cr or professional management is reinstated to address capital misallocation.	Neutral

1. Business overview

- **Business Segments:** Primarily focused on Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) with a strategic pivot toward Contract Development and Manufacturing (CDMO) and niche therapeutic areas.
- **Revenue Drivers:** Export-led growth (79% of revenue) driven by dominance in "cash cow" molecules like Chlorphenamine Maleate and Ketamine HCl, alongside expansion into regulated markets (Europe and North America).
- **Cost Drivers:** Backward integration for 15 key products serves as a defensive moat, allowing for "lowest-cost producer" status; however, costs are pressured by a 271% spike in stores and spares and high promoter remuneration.
- **Industry Position:** Global leader in Chlorphenamine Maleate and Ketamine HCl; currently transitioning from a commodity export house to a high-compliance, service-oriented model.

- **Expansion Plans:** Aggressive capacity expansion targeting 900 KL (from 597 KL) by Q2 FY25, including the □60 Cr Ambernath investment for anesthetics.
- **Acquisitions & New Molecules:** Development of 8 new molecules (e.g., Enzalutamide, Semaglutide) targeting chronic therapies like anti-diabetic and anti-cancer segments.
- **Capacity Additions:** Significant focus on Manufacturing Block E (340 KL) and a new 70 KL block at Ambernath.
- **Geographical Presence:** Strong export footprint in 100+ destinations; Europe (41%) and Asia (38%) are leading regions, with a strategic push into North America and Latin America.

2. Management commentary & outlook

- Management is executing a "Broadbasing" strategy to reduce dependency on China and specific product concentrations following the FY23 downturn.
- The company is guiding for an aggressive **25% CAGR growth** in income and profitability over the next three years.
- A generational leadership transition is underway with Dr. Saloni Wagh and Ms. Shivani Wagh elevated to MD and Joint MD roles, respectively.
- Strategic focus is shifting toward CDMO projects (3 initiated in FY24) to move away from the "commodity" label and compete with larger players.
- Management successfully liquidated excess inventory, reducing inventory days from 210 to 165, improving cash flow quality.
- The demand environment is characterized by "China+1" fatigue where pricing has bottomed out; management aims to counter this through regulated market penetration.
- New capacity (Block E) is expected to be a major growth lever, though historical utilization cycles suggest a 3-year window to reach peak efficiency.
- The retirement of professional CEO Rajeev Kumar Jain in June 2024 leaves a leadership vacuum, increasing reliance on the promoter family.
- **Management Tone:** The tone is one of aggressive optimism regarding operational recovery and capacity-led growth, yet it remains insular. While the strategic pivot to regulated markets and CDMO is sophisticated, the continued high promoter extraction and "family-only" executive structure suggest a management style that prioritizes promoter control and compensation over professional institutionalization. The verdict is a "Pivot with Persistence of Old Habits"—operationally revitalized but governance-heavy.

3. Financial analysis

3.1 Financial statements

P&L statement (□Cr)

Line item	FY current	FY prior
Sales	—	—
Expenses	—	—
Operating Profit	—	—
OPM %	—	—
Other Income	—	—
Interest	—	—
Depreciation	—	—
Profit before tax	—	—
Tax %	—	—
Net Profit	—	—
EPS (□)	—	—
Dividend Payout %	—	—

Balance sheet (□Cr)

Line item	FY current	FY prior
Equity Capital	—	—
Reserves	—	—
Borrowings	—	—
Other Liabilities	—	—
Total Liabilities	—	—
Fixed Assets	—	—
CWIP	—	—
Investments	—	—
Other Assets	—	—
Total Assets	—	—

Cash flow statement (□Cr)

Line item	FY current	FY prior
Cash from Operating Activity	—	—
Cash from Investing Activity	—	—
Cash from Financing Activity	—	—
Net Cash Flow	—	—
Free Cash Flow	—	—
CFO/OP	—	—

Key ratios

Line item	FY current	FY prior
Debtor Days	—	—
Inventory Days	—	—
Days Payable	—	—
Cash Conversion Cycle	—	—
Working Capital Days	—	—
ROCE %	—	—

3.2 Financial analysis summary

- **Revenue** from operations grew by 23.74% to □5,703.70 Cr, primarily driven by Export Sales which constitute 78.88% of the mix, though this high concentration introduces significant currency risk despite a □50.71 Cr Foreign Currency Fluctuation Gain recorded in the P&L Statement.
- **Operating Profit** margins expanded to 42.75% as Revenue growth outpaced the 2.19% increase in Cost of Raw Materials Consumed, although value leaked through a 271% spike in Stores and Spares Consumed (□117.58 Cr) and a new □30.39 Cr Finance Cost related to Interest on Statutory Liabilities, signaling potential tax compliance delays.
- **Trade Receivables** increased by 31.91% to □1,116.83 Cr, significantly outpacing Revenue growth and causing Debtor Days to rise to 71.48, which suggests aggressive credit terms or "channel stuffing" to achieve year-end targets, directly impacting CFO.
- **Inventory** management was a primary source of cash, with levels dropping 26.36% to □852.49 Cr, largely due to a massive reduction in Work-in-Progress from □299.86 Cr to □39.10 Cr, which improved the Cash Conversion Cycle to 120.48 days.
- **Balance Sheet** quality is pressured by □1,145.87 Cr in non-productive assets, comprising □588.51 Cr in CWIP aged over 3 years at the Ambernath site and a stagnant □557.36 Cr Advance against Property that has shown zero movement for two years, indicating significant capital lock-up and execution risk.
- **Total Debt** plummeted to □54.88 Cr as the company utilized its strong CFO to repay □166.25 Cr in Secured Working Capital Loans, resulting in a near-zero Debt/Equity ratio of 0.02 and a robust Interest Coverage Ratio of 80.23x.
- **Cash Flow from Operating Activity (CFO)** of □958.71 Cr was healthy but represented only 81% of PAT, with cash generation hindered by a 195% surge in Advance to Suppliers (□334.00 Cr) and the aforementioned growth in Trade Receivables.

- **Capital Allocation** remains a concern as MD Remuneration reached ₹115.50 Cr, representing 9.7% of PAT, while ₹30.73 Cr was diverted to the Satish Wagh Foundation (Related Party), potentially limiting the funds available for productive Capex or dividends.
- **Deferred Tax** liabilities surged to ₹231.52 Cr from ₹136.75 Cr, reflecting the timing difference between book and tax Depreciation, which aligns with the continued capitalization of assets despite the stalling of major CWIP projects.
- **Net Worth** and liquidity are supported by ₹749.56 Cr in Cash and Bank Balances, providing a massive buffer that allows the company to remain self-funding despite the ₹25.81 Cr recurring IPO Expenses still appearing on the P&L Statement three years post-listing.
- **Other Assets & Expenses Insight:** The ₹**557.36 Cr** Advance against Property and ₹588.51 Cr in Aged CWIP act as a significant drag on ROCE, representing nearly 14% of Net Worth locked in non-productive avenues. The 271% spike in Stores and Spares (₹117.58 Cr) suggests either a massive maintenance overhaul or potential misclassification of capital items as revenue expenses to manage margins.
- The dominant financial theme of the year is a successful operational recovery and deleveraging, where aggressive inventory liquidation and export growth have created a debt-free balance sheet, yet this is structurally undermined by deteriorating receivable quality and a massive lock-up of capital in stagnant, non-productive assets.

3.3 Contingent liabilities & commitments

- **Bank Guarantees:** ₹28.04 Cr (Reduced from ₹49.65 Cr in FY23).
- **Disputed Tax Demands:** ₹6.55 Cr (Stagnant at Tribunal level; minimal immediate cash flow risk).
- **Capital Commitments:** ₹0.00 Cr reported as of year-end.

3.9 Earnings quality & forensic checks

#	Check	Impact	Status	Notes detail
1	PAT vs CFO trend	Profit ↑ — inventory reduction of ₹305 Cr aids cash flow despite receivables growth.	—	Note 9 & 31: WIP reduction drove inventory optimization, supporting cash conversion.
2	Receivables & channel-stuffing signal	Revenue ↑↓ — receivables growth of 31.9% outpaces sales growth of 23.7% suggesting stuffing.	—	Note 10: Deterioration in collection efficiency or aggressive credit terms to drive year-end sales.
3	Revenue timing (Advances)	Revenue ↑ — customer advances surged 170% providing strong visibility for future recognized revenue.	—	Note 21: Significant increase in advances indicates strong order book or tighter credit terms.
4	Revenue from related parties %	Neutral — no significant related party revenue disclosed; focus remains on external export markets.	—	Note 22: Revenue concentration is in global exports rather than domestic related party entities.
5	Inventory vs revenue growth	Profit ↑ — sharp inventory reduction, specifically WIP, improves working capital and cash conversion.	—	Note 9: Work-in-Progress dropped from ₹299.86 Cr to ₹39.10 Cr, indicating efficient clearing.
6	Inventory valuation method change	Neutral — no change in valuation methodology reported; consistency maintained in accounting policies.	—	Note 1: Accounting policies remain consistent with prior periods regarding inventory measurement.
7	Exceptional items in operating profit	Profit ↓ — recurring IPO expenses and new statutory interest charges drag down operating margins.	—	Note 29: Continued listing cost amortization and new statutory penalties impact core operating profit.
8	Depreciation rate vs useful life policy	Profit ↑ — accelerated tax depreciation creates deferred tax liabilities while assets remain in use.	—	Note 3 & 20: Asset ownership discrepancy and book-tax depreciation gap signal aggressive tax planning.
9	Provision reversals boosting PAT	Neutral — no material provision reversals identified; ECL approach remains conservative and consistent.	—	Note 1(u): Company recognizes lifetime losses immediately rather than waiting for credit risk changes.
10	Tax rate consistency + cash tax vs P&L tax	Profit ↓ — statutory interest of ₹30.39 Cr suggests tax payment delays impacting cash flow.	—	Note 29: Appearance of statutory interest signals potential regulatory non-compliance or tax delays.
11	CWIP age and stalling projects	Profit ↓ — aged CWIP of ₹588 Cr at Ambernath site risks future impairment charges.	—	Note 5 & 12: Over ₹1,145 Cr of capital is non-productive or stalled for multiple years.
12	Deferred tax asset recognition adequacy	Profit ↓ — rising deferred tax liability reflects timing differences from heavy recent capital expenditure.	—	Note 20: DTL growth is primarily driven by the difference between book and tax depreciation.
13	RPT quantum and trend	Profit ↓ — high promoter remuneration and CSR through promoter-linked foundation reduce distributable earnings.	—	Note 31: Remuneration is at the high end of pharma benchmarks; CSR is promoter-controlled.
14	Dividend paid vs FCF adequacy	Profit ↑ — strong liquidity and zero debt support dividend sustainability despite high capital lock-up.	—	Note 11a & 15: Repayment of ₹166 Cr working capital loan makes company virtually debt-free.
15	Asset Ownership Discrepancy	Neutral — Motor cars capitalized but not in company name indicates internal control lapse.	—	Note 3: Minor internal control lapse regarding asset titles.
16	Supplier Advance Surge	Profit ↓ — 195% surge in advances to suppliers locks up cash.	—	

#	Check	Impact	Status	Notes detail
				Note 12: Significant cash outflow to suppliers not yet reflected in inventory or sales.

4. Management & governance

A. Auditor Report & Key Audit Matters - **Audit opinion type:** Unqualified. - **Key Audit Matters (KAMs):** The auditor focused on the adequacy of internal financial controls and the "Simplified Approach" for Expected Credit Loss (ECL) on trade receivables. - **Internal Controls:** Auditor stated internal financial controls are adequate and operating effectively, despite the note regarding motor cars (□0.60 Cr) not being in the company's name. - **Auditor re-appointment:** M/s. Kakaria & Associates LLP were re-appointed in 2022 for a second five-year term.

B. Related Party Transactions | Party | Relationship | Nature | Amount (□Cr) | Concern | | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | | Satish W. Wagh | Promoter / MD | Remuneration | 115.50 Cr | ***High extraction: 9.7% of PAT*** | | Smita S. Wagh | Whole Time Director | Remuneration | 16.94 Cr | Family extraction | | Saloni/Shivani Wagh | Whole Time Directors | Remuneration | 39.98 Cr | 28% YoY growth in pay | | Satish Wagh Foundation | Promoter Controlled | CSR Contribution | 30.73 Cr | ***Routing social spend through promoter entity*** | | Vaibhav Chemicals | Promoter Entity | Rent Paid | 1.05 Cr | Arm's length lease |

- **% of Revenue:** 2.88%
- **RPT Verdict:** Monitor. While disclosed, the quantum of promoter pay and routing of CSR through a family foundation (where CMD is a trustee) warrant close monitoring of minority interest protection.

C. Shareholding - **Promoter:** 68.24% (Unchanged) - **FII:** 4.63% (Down from 6.12%) - **DII:** 6.94% (Down from 8.54%) - **Public:** 20.19% (Up from 17.10%) - **Pledged Shares:** 0.00%

D. Board Composition + KMP Compensation - **Total Directors:** 10 | **Independent %:** 50.00% | **Women Directors:** 4. - **Family Concentration:** The board includes the CMD, his spouse, and two daughters. - **KMP Compensation Analysis:** - **Satish W. Wagh (CMD):** □115.50 Cr (0% growth, but 6.29% of EBITDA). - **Saloni/ Shivani Wagh (JMDs):** □19.99 Cr each (27.98% growth). - **Revenue Correlation:** Family pay growth (28% for JMDs) is roughly aligned with revenue growth (23.7%) and EBITDA growth (42.3%), but the absolute level of CMD pay (335:1 ratio to median employee) remains an outlier.

F. Capital Allocation & Capex | Action | FY current (□Cr) | FY prior (□Cr) | % of CFO | Signal | | :--- | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | | Dividends | 6.44 Cr | 4.83 Cr | 0.54% | — | | Capex | 63.54 Cr | 83.56 Cr | 5.33% | **Positive** | | Net Debt Change | -166.25 Cr | 0.00 Cr | -13.96% | **Positive** | | Aged CWIP (>3 Years) | 588.51 Cr | 311.83 Cr | 49.41% | — | | Advance against Property | 557.36 Cr | 557.36 Cr | 46.79% | — | | Interest on Statutory Liabilities | 30.39 Cr | 0.00 Cr | 2.55% | — |

CAPEX Analytical Notes: - **CFO Coverage:** Massive coverage ratio (CFO □958.71 Cr vs Capex □63.54 Cr) indicates no funding risk. - **Nature:** Growth-oriented, focusing on **Manufacturing Block E (340 KL)** to reach 900 KL total capacity. - **Deployment Efficiency: Aged CWIP > 3 years increased by 88.7% to □588.51 Cr**, signaling capital locked in non-productive assets. - **Key Takeaways:** While the debt-free status is a strength, the **stagnant □557.36 Cr advance against property** is a major forensic red flag.

H. Risks - ***Geographic Concentration:*** 78.88% revenue from exports; 41% from Europe. High sensitivity to EU regulatory shifts. (High) - ***Aged CWIP:*** □588.51 Cr outstanding for >3 years at Ambernath. Risk of future impairments. (High) - ***Customer Concentration:*** Top 10 customers account for 49% of revenue. (Medium) - ***Statutory Compliance:*** □30.39 Cr charge for interest on statutory liabilities suggests tax remittance delays. (Medium) - ***Inventory Obsolescence:*** WIP dropped from □299.86 Cr to □39.10 Cr; sharp reduction may mask aggressive clearing. (Medium)

5. Scorecard & verdict

Part a: scorecard

Dimension	Rating (1–5)	Delta	Key evidence	One-line rationale
Business quality	4	→	#1 in Chlorphenamine; 79% Exports	Strong global niche leadership and backward integration moat.
Financial health	5	↑	D/E 0.02x; Interest Coverage 80x	Virtually debt-free with massive cash buffer of ₹749 Cr.
Earnings quality	2	↓	Receivables > Revenue; Aged CWIP ₹588 Cr	High capital lock-up and aggressive year-end receivable growth.
Management & governance	2	→	CMD Pay 9.7% of PAT; CSR via Family Foundation	High promoter extraction and family-dominated board structure.
Capital allocation & earnings visibility	3	↓	Aged CWIP + Stagnant Property Advance	₹1,145 Cr in non-productive assets drags down return ratios.

Business positives (for this company this year) * **Deleveraging:** Successfully repaid ₹166.25 Cr in working capital loans to become virtually debt-free. * **Margin Expansion:** Operating Profit Margins expanded to 42.75% from 35.80% due to cost leadership. * **Inventory Optimization:** Reduced inventory by 26.36% (₹305 Cr), significantly improving the cash conversion cycle. * **Export Dominance:** Achieved 23.7% revenue growth driven by a 79% export mix and regulated market focus. * **Order Visibility:** Advance from customers surged 170% to ₹148.68 Cr, indicating a strong forward order book.

Business negatives / concerns (for this company this year) * **Capital Lock-up:** ₹1,145.87 Cr (14% of Net Worth) is stuck in aged CWIP (>3 years) and stagnant property advances. * **Receivable Stress:** Trade receivables grew 31.9%, outpacing revenue growth (23.7%), suggesting channel stuffing. * **Governance Flags:** CMD remuneration at ₹115.50 Cr (9.7% of PAT) is exceptionally high compared to peers. * **Compliance Issues:** New ₹30.39 Cr charge for interest on statutory liabilities signals delays in tax payments. * **Professional Churn:** Retirement of professional CEO leaves the company entirely dependent on the promoter family.

Overall scorecard summary Supriya Lifescience presents a dichotomy of stellar operational performance and concerning governance/capital discipline. While the company is financially robust with zero debt and high margins, the quality of the balance sheet is deteriorating due to massive capital lock-ups in non-productive assets. Governance remains a structural overhang, characterized by high promoter extraction and a lack of professional management depth. The business is on a **stable but risky** trajectory where operational gains are being offset by capital misallocation.

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: 8/10 — Governance Rating: 3"

Part c: investor verdict

Thesis: A high-margin API leader with a debt-free balance sheet, currently hindered by poor capital allocation and high promoter extraction.

Overall stance: Watch

Rationale: Operational recovery is impressive, but the ₹1,145 Cr locked in stagnant assets and high promoter pay require resolution before a re-rating. Re-evaluate when: Aged CWIP reduces by >₹200 Cr OR professional CEO is appointed. BULL CASE: Successful 900 KL capacity utilization and CDMO conversion driving 25% PAT growth. BEAR CASE: Impairment of stagnant property advances and CWIP leading to a one-time ₹500 Cr+ hit to Net Worth. Key monitorable: Debtor Days: 71.48 → Watch for breach of 85 days.

7. Year-over-year analysis

7.1 Changes

Metric / theme	Summary a status	Summary b status	Forensic takeaway
Margin Trajectory	EBITDA margins collapsed to 26.9% due to utility and maintenance spikes.	OPM expanded to 42.75% driven by backward integration and export growth.	Operational efficiency has recovered sharply through cost leadership and a favorable product mix.
Inventory Management	Ballooned by 26% despite falling sales, signaling high obsolescence risk.	Liquidated by 26.36%, significantly improving the cash conversion cycle.	Management successfully corrected the previous year's overproduction to unlock operating cash flow.
Receivable Quality	Receivables fell 26.5%, indicating disciplined collections during a downturn.	Receivables grew 31.9%, outpacing revenue growth and signaling potential channel stuffing.	The pursuit of aggressive growth has come at the expense of credit discipline and collection efficiency.
Capital Allocation	Focused on doubling capacity and automation for new units.	₹1,145.87 Cr locked in aged CWIP (>3 years) and stagnant property advances.	Capital discipline has deteriorated as a significant portion of net worth is now trapped in non-productive assets.
Management Tone	Cautious and transitional following CEO/CFO churn and China lockdowns.	Aggressively optimistic but increasingly insular and family-centric.	The shift toward a generational family transition suggests a move away from professional institutionalization.
Order Visibility	Customer advances dropped 69%, signaling a weakening order book.	Customer advances surged 170%, providing strong forward revenue visibility.	Short-term demand has rebounded strongly, reversing the previous year's contraction.

7.2 Persistent patterns

- **High Promoter Extraction:** CMD remuneration remains exceptionally high as a percentage of PAT (14.8% in Summary A and 9.7% in Summary B), significantly exceeding industry benchmarks.
- **CSR Routing:** Social spending is consistently routed through the **Satish Wagh Foundation**, a promoter-controlled entity.
- **Family Board Dominance:** The board remains heavily concentrated with the Wagh family (CMD, spouse, and two daughters), maintaining a **high degree of promoter control**.
- **Zero Share Pledging:** Promoters have consistently maintained a **0% pledge** on their 68.24% equity stake across both periods.
- **Niche Market Leadership:** The company maintains its global dominance in "cash cow" molecules like Chlorphenamine Maleate and Ketamine HCl.
- **Clean Audit Opinion:** Auditors have provided **unqualified opinions** in both years, despite highlighting internal control lapses like asset title discrepancies.
- **Export-Centric Model:** A sustained reliance on exports (79-80% of revenue) continues to expose the company to significant **foreign currency fluctuation risks**.