Piramal Pharma Ltd — FY 2023 Annual Report Analysis

Annual Report Analysis (Consolidated)

Investor Snapshot

#	Analytical point	Sentiment
1	**Piramal Pharma maintains a strong competitive moat as the global #4 in Anesthesia with a pristine regulatory record of zero USFDA OAIs across 17 facilities since 2011.**	—
2	**Revenue growth remains sluggish at 7.97% YoY (□7,082 Cr), failing to keep pace with a 22.4% surge in employee costs, indicating a significant lack of operating leverage.**	—
3	***Operating margins have collapsed, leading to a Net Loss of 186 Cr as the company fails to convert its high-barrier business model into bottom-line profitability.***	—
4	***The balance sheet is in a precarious state with a D/E of 0.83x and a breach of two financial covenants on 5,637 Cr of debt as of March 31, 2023.***	—
5	***Interest coverage has deteriorated to 1.83x following a 73.7% surge in finance costs (344 Cr), leaving the company with minimal cushion for further rate hikes or earnings volatility.***	—
6	***Free Cash Flow is deeply negative at - 461 Cr, as Cash Flow from Operations (484 Cr) is insufficient to fund the aggressive 965 Cr capital expenditure program.***	—
7	**Capital allocation is currently value-destructive, with ROCE plummeting to 2%, significantly trailing the company's 9.6% cost of debt.**	—
8	***Earnings quality is compromised by a 52.8% spike in inventory (1,681 Cr) against 8% sales growth, resulting in a 55x jump in obsolescence provisions and 227 inventory days.***	—
9	***Governance concerns are heightened by 4,584.77 Cr in off-balance sheet guarantees (87% of equity) and a 40.5% hike in Chairperson remuneration despite reporting a net loss.***	—
10	***The primary risk resides in the severe liquidity crunch and the potential for debt acceleration if the upcoming Rights Issue fails to significantly deleverage the entity.***	—
11	**Forward visibility is supported by a 354% jump in CDMO contract liabilities (□28.02 Cr) and 100% promoter commitment to the critical liquidity-providing Rights Issue.**	—
12	**Investment View: Watch; stance remains cautious until Net Debt/EBITDA falls below 3.5x and inventory days normalize toward 180.**	—

1. Business overview (In Bullet Points)

- **Business Segments:** Piramal Pharma operates a diversified "three-pillar" business model: Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO/PPS - 56% revenue), Complex Hospital Generics (CHG/PCC - 32% revenue), and India Consumer Healthcare (ICH - 12% revenue).
- **Revenue Drivers:** CDMO growth is driven by integrated services and high-barrier offerings like Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADC) and High Potency APIs (HPAPI). CHG is driven by a dominant global position in inhalation anesthesia (Sevoflurane) and intrathecal therapy. ICH relies on "Power Brands" and a growing e-commerce presence.
- **Cost Drivers:** Key costs include raw materials (38% of sales), high employee benefits (27% of sales), and rising finance costs due to increased debt and market-linked interest rates post-demerger.

- **Industry Position:** World’s fourth-largest player in inhalation anesthesia; maintains a "Best-in-Class" quality track record with zero USFDA OAIs since 2011.
- **Expansion Plans:** Transitioning from a heavy capex phase to execution, focusing on utilizing new capacities at Riverview (US), Aurora (Canada), and Turbhe (India).
- **Acquisitions & JVs:** Operates a significant associate relationship with Allergan India, which provides substantial dividend income.
- **Capacity Additions:** Recent completions include ADC capacity at Grangemouth (UK), HPAPI at Riverview (US), and a peptide facility at Turbhe (India).
- **Geographical Presence:** Heavily exposed to regulated markets; 69% of revenue from North America, Europe, and Japan, with the US alone accounting for 45%.

2. Management commentary & outlook

- The primary objective of the demerger from Piramal Enterprises Ltd was to provide business independence and optimize capital structures, moving toward a "Becoming Simpler, Emerging Stronger" theme.
- Management acknowledges a challenging FY23 marked by global inflationary pressures and the necessity of a Rights Issue to bolster the balance sheet and reduce interest burdens.
- Strategic priority has shifted toward "Operational Excellence" and cost optimization to mitigate margin erosion.
- The CDMO sector is expected to maintain a 6-7% industry CAGR, with PPL positioned to benefit from global pharma companies de-risking supply chains away from single-source dependencies.
- The CHG segment is focused on a pipeline of 25+ SKUs to maintain growth momentum in hospital channels.
- The ICH business is evolving into a brand-led engine, with "Power Brands" (Little’s, Lacto Calamine, I-Pill, etc.) now contributing 42% of segment revenue and e-commerce contributing 16%.
- Management highlights a pick-up in order bookings in Q4 FY2023 as a lead indicator for a stronger FY2024.
- A Rights Issue was launched with 100% promoter commitment to subscribe, signaling strong promoter confidence and providing liquidity to fund growth plans without further operational dilution.
- **Management Tone: Management’s tone is pragmatic and execution-focused with a "Repair and Grow" undercurrent. They are transparent about margin pressures and the necessity of the Rights Issue to address debt covenant breaches. The narrative has shifted from the structural change of demerger to the operational reality of a global pharma business, emphasizing accountability and promoter backing to reassure investors during the transition.**

3. Financial analysis

3.1 Financial statements

P&L statement (□Cr)

Line item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Sales	7,082	6,559
Sales Growth %	7.97	3.87
Expenses	6,453	5,609
Material Cost %	38.17	37.37
Raw material cost	2,635	2,396
Change in inventory	69	55
Manufacturing Cost %	10.87	9.62
Employee Cost %	26.81	24.24
Other Cost %	15.27	14.29
Operating Profit	629	950
OPM %	9	14
Other Income	272	319
Exceptional items	-5	-14
Other income normal	277	333
Interest	344	198
Depreciation	677	586
Profit before tax	-120	485
Tax %	55	22
Net Profit	-186	376
Exceptional items AT	0	-8
Profit excl Excep	-186	384
Profit for PE	-186	384
Profit for EPS	-186	376
Profit Growth %	-148	-53
EPS (□)	-1.41	0
Dividend Payout %	0	18

Balance sheet (□Cr)

Line item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Equity Capital	1,193	1,186
Reserves	5,580	5,511
Borrowings	5,637	4,128
Long term Borrowings	3,384	2,622
Short term Borrowings	2,121	1,401
Lease Liabilities	132	105
Other Liabilities	1,893	1,781
Trade Payables	1,193	1,026
Advance from Customers	117	140
Other liability items	582	614
Total Liabilities	14,303	12,605
Fixed Assets	7,469	6,879
Land	257	212
Building	1,629	1,299
Plant Machinery	3,532	2,966
Equipments	43	33
Furniture n fittings	75	67
Vehicles	2	1
Intangible Assets	1,108	4,110
Other fixed assets	4,197	822
Gross Block	10,842	9,510
Accumulated Depreciation	3,374	2,631
CWIP	1,419	1,172
Investments	639	267
Other Assets	4,777	4,286
Inventories	1,681	1,389
Trade receivables	1,799	1,785
Cash Equivalents	308	329
Loans n Advances	208	70
Other asset items	781	714
Total Assets	14,303	12,605

Cash flow statement (□Cr)

Line item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Cash from Operating Activity	484	766
Profit from operations	975	1,228
Receivables	89	-185
Inventory	-173	-176
Payables	-272	79
Other WC items	53	-11
Working capital changes	-302	-292
Direct taxes	-189	-169
Cash from Investing Activity	-1,334	-1,737
Fixed assets purchased	-965	-890
Fixed assets sold	20	32
Investments purchased	-1,209	-1,454
Investments sold	834	1,403
Interest received	0	1
Dividends received	75	82
Investment in group cos	-20	-102
Acquisition of companies	0	-805
Other investing items	-68	-5
Cash from Financing Activity	818	794
Proceeds from shares	0	0
Proceeds from borrowings	4,385	2,254
Repayment of borrowings	-3,186	-1,234
Interest paid fin	-278	-145
Dividends paid	-67	-50
Financial liabilities	-36	-30
Other financing items	0	0
Net Cash Flow	-32	-177
Free Cash Flow	-461	-91
CFO/OP	107	98

Key ratios

Line item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Debtor Days	93	99
Inventory Days	227	207
Days Payable	161	153
Cash Conversion Cycle	159	153
Working Capital Days	13	36
ROCE %	2	7

3.2 Financial analysis summary

- **Revenue** grew by 7.97% to 7,082.00 Cr, yet the company transitioned to a Net Profit loss of -186.00 Cr from a profit of 376.00 Cr, primarily due to a collapse in OPM % from 14% to 9% and a 73.7% surge in Finance Cost to 344.00 Cr.
- Aggressive discounting and rebates surged by 151.58% (**130.42 Cr**) to defend market share, which directly eroded the top-line quality despite the 44% growth in "Over time" service revenue (436.61 Cr) signaling a shift toward CDMO contracts.
- **Operating Profit** fell to 629.00 Cr as Expenses outpaced Revenue growth, with Employee Cost % rising to 26.81%; employee benefits grew 22.4%, far exceeding the 3% core revenue growth.
- **Other Expenses** were bloated by a near-doubling of Professional Charges to 73.72 Cr related to post-demerger restructuring, while Service Charges reached 113.04 Cr, representing high discretionary spend during a period of financial stress.
- **Total Debt** on the Balance Sheet escalated to 5,637.00 Cr from 4,128.00 Cr, driving the Debt / Equity ratio up to 0.83 and causing Interest Coverage to deteriorate to 1.83.
- A critical breach of two financial covenants occurred as of March 2023, with high refinancing risk as 63.6% of debt (**2,121.00 Cr**) is classified as Short term Borrowings.
- **Working Capital** efficiency deteriorated as Inventory Days climbed to 227 days, with Inventories on the Balance Sheet rising to 1,681.00 Cr, a 52.86% surge against minimal revenue growth.
- A 55x increase in provisions for slow-moving stock (**16.64 Cr**) and a 58% jump in ECL Allowance to 43.40 Cr signal deteriorating asset quality and potential inventory obsolescence.
- **Other Assets** are strained by 291.61 Cr (73% of other current assets) tied up in government dues (GST/ Excise), acting as a non-earning liquidity drag on the Cash Conversion Cycle which stretched to 159 days.
- **Cash from Operating Activity (CFO)** declined to 484.00 Cr, failing to cover Capex of 965.00 Cr, resulting in a deeply negative Free Cash Flow of -461.00 Cr, bridged by Proceeds from borrowings of 4,385.00 Cr.
- **Intangible Assets** decreased sharply to 1,108.00 Cr from 4,110.00 Cr due to reclassifications; however, 645.26 Cr in Goodwill/Intangibles remains highly sensitive to "Value in Use" assumptions, posing future write-down risks.
- **Other Income** of 272.00 Cr provided a critical cushion to the Profit before tax of -120.00 Cr, but this is heavily reliant on dividends from associates (Allergan) rather than core operations.
- **Massive Off-Balance Sheet Exposure** exists via Guarantees Given for Subsidiaries totaling 4,584.77 Cr, representing 87% of the company's Net Worth, creating a high-risk financial structure.
- **The dominant financial theme of the year is a severe liquidity and margin crunch post-demerger, where operational losses and aggressive capex have led to a debt covenant breach, making the business entirely dependent on external financing and the proposed Rights Issue for survival.**

3.3 Contingent liabilities & commitments

- **Tax Litigation:** Disputed demands for indirect taxes (Excise/Service Tax/Customs) rose by 54% to □39.36 Cr. Sales tax disputes stand at □2.83 Cr.
- **Environmental Dispute:** A persistent legacy dispute with the Telangana Pollution Control Board (TPCB) involves □11.86 Cr.
- **Capital Commitments:** Unexecuted capital contracts nearly doubled to □70.26 Cr, indicating ongoing expansion obligations despite liquidity constraints.
- **Export Obligations:** Outstanding obligations under the Advance License scheme total □23.12 Cr.
- **Guarantees:** The company has provided massive financial guarantees worth □4,584.77 Cr for its subsidiaries.

3.9 Earnings quality & forensic checks

#	Check	Impact	Status	Notes detail
1	PAT vs CFO trend	Profit ↓ — earnings overstate cash; ₹484 Cr CFO fails to cover ₹677 Cr depreciation.	—	CFO/OP at 107% looks healthy but FCF is drained by capex.
2	Receivables & channel-stuffing signal	Revenue ↑↓ — channel stuffing risk; inventory + receivables grew ₹294 Cr vs sales growth.	—	Inventory days spiked to 227 from 207; ECL allowance rose 58%.
3	Revenue timing	Revenue ↑ — service revenue visibility; deferred revenue increased ₹21.85 Cr providing future cushion.	—	Note 2a-xii: "Over time" revenue recognition for service/development contracts.
4	Revenue from related parties %	Revenue ↓ — declining captive sales; RPT revenue dropped ₹888 Cr post-demerger transition.	—	Note 38.2: Drop due to PEL demerger; sales now external.
5	Inventory vs revenue growth	Profit ↓ — obsolescence risk; inventory grew 52.8% while revenue grew only 3%.	—	Note 8: Raw material buildup of ₹395 Cr suggests overproduction.
6	Inventory valuation method change	Neutral — consistent valuation; lower of cost or NRV applied consistently across periods.	—	Note 2a-ix: Standard policy; ₹16.64 Cr provision for slow-moving stock.
7	Exceptional items in operating profit	Profit ↑ — non-recurring costs; ₹5 Cr exceptional loss excluded from normalized operating profit.	—	P&L shows exceptional items are small relative to total loss.
8	Depreciation rate vs useful life policy	Profit ↑ — aggressive capitalization; ₹677 Cr depreciation on ₹10,842 Cr gross block.	—	Note 2a-v: Development costs capitalized, deferring P&L impact via amortization.
9	Provision reversals boosting PAT	Profit ↑ — sudden quality recognition; inventory provision increased 55x, masking prior period issues.	—	Note 8: Massive jump in slow-moving stock provision signals quality stress.
10	Tax rate consistency + cash tax vs P&L tax	Profit ↓ — high tax leakage; 55% effective tax rate vs 22% prior year.	—	Cash tax paid is significantly higher than accounting profit/loss.
11	CWIP age and stalling projects	Neutral — active expansion; CWIP increased ₹247 Cr supporting ongoing capital commitment growth.	—	Note 36: Capital commitments nearly doubled, indicating no project stalling.
12	Deferred tax asset recognition adequacy	Profit ↑ — non-cash support; DTA recognition likely supports the high 55% tax rate.	—	Note 14: Other asset items include significant government tax balances.
13	RPT quantum and trend	Profit ↓ — high off-balance risk; ₹4,584 Cr guarantees given for subsidiaries.	—	Note 38.2: Guarantees represent 87% of total equity; massive hidden risk.
14	Dividend paid vs FCF adequacy	Neutral — prudent suspension; zero dividend paid in FY23 given negative free cash.	—	FCF of -₹461 Cr justifies the cessation of dividend payments.
15	Covenant Compliance	Profit ↑↓ — liquidity crunch; breach of two financial covenants as of Mar 31, 2023.	—	Severe risk of debt acceleration or restricted capital access.
16	Auditor KAM: Intangible Impairment	Profit ↑ — valuation sensitivity; ₹1,108 Cr intangibles tested via "Value in Use" models.	—	Risk of future write-downs if growth targets are missed.
17	Capitalization of R&D	Profit ↑ — expense deferral; development costs capitalized until completion.	—	Potential inflation of current profits by deferring actual cash burn.

4. Management & governance

A. Auditor report & key audit matters

- **Audit Opinion:** Unqualified.
- **KAM 1: Impairment of Intangible Assets:** Auditor focused on the ₹1,108.00 Cr carrying value. Management used "Value in Use" models with sensitive growth/discount rate assumptions.
- **KAM 2: Revenue Recognition (Cut-off):** Risk of revenue being recognized in the wrong period, especially for "over time" service contracts.
- **KAM 3: Demerger Accounting:** Complexities from the PEL demerger involving asset transfers and a Capital Reserve of ₹(718.34) Cr.
- **Auditor Fees:** Total fees of ₹1.63 Cr. "Other matters" fees (₹0.63 Cr) represent 38.6% of total fees, warranting monitoring for independence.
- **Going Concern:** Auditor concluded the basis is appropriate despite covenant breaches, citing post-balance sheet waivers and the planned Rights Issue.

B. Related party transactions

Party	Relationship	Nature	Amount (₹ Cr)	Concern
Subsidiaries	Subsidiaries	***Guarantees Given***	4,584.77 Cr	***Massive off-balance sheet risk (87% of Equity)***
Piramal Dutch Holdings N.V.	Subsidiary	***Unsecured Loans***	751.05 Cr	***Potential value leakage; rates 4-9%***
Allergan India Pvt Ltd	Associate	**Dividend Received**	83.79 Cr	**Critical cash inflow for P&L support**
PEL Pharma Inc.	Subsidiary	Unsecured Loans	214.80 Cr	Liquidity support to subsidiary
Piramal Enterprises Ltd	Promoter Group	Sales (Post-demerger)	353.50 Cr	Dependency on former parent group

- **RPT Risk Checks:** Total RPT of ₹1,324.15 Cr represents 18.71% of Revenue (>15% threshold) and 273.58% of CFO (Extreme cash leakage risk).

C. Shareholding

- **Promoter:** 34.79% | **FII:** 19.28% | **DII:** 4.98% | **Public:** 40.95%
- **Pledged Shares:** 0.00%.

D. Board composition + KMP compensation

- **Board:** 10 Directors; 50% Independent; 3 Women Directors.
- **Nandini Piramal (Chairperson):** ₹5.13 Cr (40.50% YoY growth) * **Peter DeYoung (ED):** ₹5.16 Cr (4.79% YoY growth)
- **Vivek Valsaraj (CFO):** ₹2.94 Cr (36.57% YoY growth) * **Analysis:** KMP compensation rose significantly while EBITDA crashed 33.79% and the company reported a Net Loss. **Nandini Piramal** and Peter DeYoung are married; their combined pay is ₹10.29 Cr (1.64% of EBITDA).

F. Capital allocation & capex

Action	FY current (□Cr)	FY prior (□Cr)	% of CFO	Signal
Capex	965.00 Cr	890.00 Cr	199.38%	—
Net Debt Change	1,509.00 Cr	1,153.00 Cr	311.78%	—
Interest Payments	278.00 Cr	145.00 Cr	57.44%	—
Dividends	67.00 Cr	50.00 Cr	13.84%	—

- **CAPEX Analytical Notes:**
  - **CFO Coverage of Capex:** 0.50; the funding gap is bridged entirely through fresh borrowings.
  - **Nature:** Growth-oriented capacities at Riverview, Aurora, and Turbhe.
  - **Efficiency:** Capex rose 8.4% while Sales grew 7.97% and Operating Profit fell 33.79%, indicating a gestation lag or poor execution.
  - **Takeaway:** Aggressive capex amidst a **covenant breach** and negative FCF is high-risk.

H. Risks

- **Liquidity & Covenants:** Breach of two financial covenants could trigger immediate repayment of □5,637 Cr debt. (Impact: High)
- **Inventory Obsolescence:** Inventory grew 52.8% vs 7.9% sales; □16.64 Cr provision already made. (Impact: High)
- **Off-Balance Sheet:** □4,584.77 Cr in guarantees for subsidiaries (87% of Equity). (Impact: High)
- **Interest Rate:** Weighted avg. rate rose to 9.64%; 1% hike impacts P&L by ~□16 Cr. (Impact: High)
- **Quality/Regulatory:** USFDA inspections at 4 facilities; high compliance costs. (Impact: Medium)

5. Scorecard & verdict

Part a: scorecard

Dimension	Rating (1–5)	Delta	Key evidence	One-line rationale
Business quality	4	—	Global #4 in Anesthesia; 0 OAIs since 2011; 56% CDMO revenue.	Strong market position and quality track record in high-barrier segments.
Financial health	1	—	D/E 0.83x; Interest Coverage 1.83x; Covenant Breach.	Severe liquidity stress and breach of debt terms indicate high insolvency risk.
Earnings quality	2	—	CFO < Capex; Inventory grew 52.8% vs 8% Sales; 55x jump in provisions.	Aggressive accounting and inventory buildup mask operational weakness.
Management & governance	2	—	87% of Equity as Guarantees; KMP pay hiked 40% during Net Loss.	Poor alignment of executive pay with performance and massive off-balance risk.
Capital allocation & earnings visibility	2	—	ROCE 2% < Cost of Debt 9.6%; Negative FCF -□461 Cr.	Value-destructive reinvestment currently failing to generate cash returns.

Business positives (for this company this year) * **Quality Track Record:** Maintained zero OAIs from USFDA since 2011 across 17 global facilities. * **CDMO Visibility:** Contract liabilities (deferred revenue) rose 354% to □28.02 Cr, signaling future service revenue. * **Strategic Divestment/Demerger:** Successfully transitioned to a

pure-play pharma entity to optimize capital focus. * **Promoter Commitment:** 100% commitment to subscribe to the Rights Issue, providing a critical liquidity lifeline.

Business negatives / concerns (for this company this year) * **Covenant Breach:** Explicitly breached two financial covenants on ₹5,637 Cr of debt as of March 31, 2023. * **Inventory Stress:** Inventory grew 52.8% (₹1,681 Cr) while revenue grew only 7.97%, leading to a 55x increase in obsolescence provisions. * **Negative Free Cash Flow:** Reported FCF of -₹461 Cr as CFO (₹484 Cr) failed to cover aggressive Capex (₹965 Cr). * **Governance/Compensation:** Chairperson's remuneration increased 40.5% despite the company reporting a Net Loss of ₹186 Cr. * **Off-Balance Sheet Risk:** Provided ₹4,584.77 Cr in guarantees for subsidiaries, representing 87% of total equity.

Overall scorecard summary Piramal Pharma is currently in a precarious financial state where strong business assets and a solid regulatory track record are being overshadowed by a severe liquidity crisis. The company is suffering from value destruction, with ROCE (2%) falling well below its rising cost of debt (9.6%), and is currently unable to fund its growth through internal accruals. While the promoter-backed Rights Issue provides a temporary survival path, the combination of debt covenant breaches, massive off-balance sheet guarantees, and aggressive KMP pay hikes amidst losses signals a deteriorating governance and financial trajectory.

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: 7/10 — Governance Rating: 2"

Part c: investor verdict

Thesis: A high-quality global pharma operator currently undergoing a painful, debt-fueled transition post-demerger that has resulted in a temporary but severe liquidity crunch. **Overall stance:** Watch **Rationale:** The business has strong assets but the current financial structure is unsustainable without the successful execution of the Rights Issue and immediate margin recovery. **Re-evaluate when:** Net Debt / EBITDA falls below 3.5x and OPM recovers to >12%. **BULL CASE:** Rapid utilization of new US/Canada capacities drives CDMO margins back to 15%+, leading to FCF positivity. **BEAR CASE:** USFDA regulatory action at a key site or failure to deleverage leads to debt acceleration and equity dilution. **Key monitorable:** Inventory Days: 227 → Watch for reduction to <180 days.