

## Twin treats from Emami

A STAFF REPORTER

**Calcutta:** In a double bonanza for shareholders, the Emami board has approved a dividend and a bonus issue as its topline rose 12 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2017-18.

Emami, on Thursday, declared a dividend of Rs 7 per share (700 per cent) and approved the issue of bonus shares in the ratio of 1:1. The bonus issue will be funded out of the reserves and the paid-up share capital will increase to 45.39 crore shares of Re 1 each from 22.69 crore shares now.

The bonus issue, if approved by the shareholders, will be eligible for dividend from 2018-19 onwards. Emami had earlier issued bonus shares in 2004 and 2013.

The Emami scrip, however, took a 2.05 per cent hit on the BSE despite the bonus and dividend offer as the company's fourth-quarter bottomline came under the weather. Emami shares closed at Rs 1,085.50 at

(in Rs crore)	2016-17		2017-18	
	Q4	Q3	Q3	Q4
Revenue from operations*	613.41	845.66	689.03	689.03
EBIDTA	178.11	264.68	173.25	173.25
Net profit	83.32	147.19	60.23	60.23
EPS (Rs)	3.67	6.49	2.65	2.65

\*Including GST & VAT

the end of the day's trade on Thursday.

During the January-March quarter of 2017-18, the consolidated profit after tax stood at Rs 60.23 crore, less than Rs 83.32 crore in the corresponding year-ago period. The operating income (earnings before interest, depreciation and tax) saw a decline of 3 per cent as the company stepped up spending on product launches

(an increase of 3.2 times at Rs 19.6 crore). The profit was also impacted on account of writing off MAT credit entitlement of Rs 14 crore.

However, revenue from operations (including GST and VAT) increased 12 per cent to Rs 689.03 crore against Rs 613.41 crore in the year-ago period.

"Most of our brands have registered good growth in this quarter. The consumption environment has overall been positive with rural business chartering the growth path. We have increased our direct reach to 8.5 lakh outlets. The international business has also done well in this quarter, achieving a growth of 37 per cent," said Mohan Goenka, director of Emami.

"We expect the momentum to continue in 2018-19. With GST stabilisation, normal monsoon expectation along with higher government spending, FMCG is poised for a good growth," said Harsha V. Agarwal, director of Emami.