

HOLD TP: Rs 2,443 | △ 11%

DALMIA BHARAT

Cement

29 January 2024

Soft prices constrain growth

- Q3 revenue grew at a slow 7% YoY supported by 8% volume growth while realisations stayed flat
- EBITDA margin expanded 230bps YoY to 21.5% contributed by volume growth and stable cost structure
- We cut FY24/FY25 EBITDA 1%/9%; on rollover, our TP stands revised to Rs 2,443 (vs. Rs 2,286) – retain HOLD

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Volumes rise, realisations weak: Dalmia Bharat (DBL) reported a muted 7% YoY (+14% QoQ) increase in revenue to Rs 36bn in Q3FY24 despite healthy volume growth of 8% YoY (+10% QoQ) to 6.8mn tonnes, as realisations were flat YoY (+4% QoQ) at Rs 5,294/t. Prices increased in the eastern and southern markets at the start of Q3 only to correct by the quarter's end due to volume pressure.

Cost structure stable: Overall cost per tonne dipped 3% YoY (flat QoQ) to Rs 4,154 due to a 6% YoY decline (flat QoQ) in raw material-adjusted energy cost to Rs 1,988/t while logistics cost increased 7% YoY (-2% QoQ) to Rs 1,093/t owing to lower lead distance. Other expenditure increased 6% YoY (+8% QoQ) to Rs 5.1bn driven by shutdowns amid capacity addition.

EBITDA grows off a weak base: EBITDA rose 20% YoY (+32% QoQ) to Rs 7.8bn and the margin expanded 230bps YoY (280bps QoQ) to 21.5% aided by volume growth and a stable cost structure. EBITDA/t stood at Rs 1,113 (+12%/20% YoY/QoQ) and management has targeted levels of Rs 1,100-1,200/t in FY25.

Capacity expansion underway: DBL closed Q3 with cement capacity of 44.6mt (vs. 43.7mt in Q2) and is on track to reach 46.6mt by FY24-end and 49.5mt by FY25 backed by healthy clinker capacity. Capex guidance has been retained at ~Rs 30bn for FY24 (ex-Jaypee Cement deal outflows), with Rs 30bn-35bn guided for FY25 including maintenance outlay of ~Rs 2.5bn. We have not factored in Jaypee assets.

Fairly valued; retain HOLD: With the planned expansion in FY25/FY26, DBL will continue its efforts to drive market share. However, narrowing the gap between its regional dispatches and large capacities will be a challenge. The company has retained focus on improving the balance sheet and controlling debt with good success. However, its aggressive capex plans do imply intermittent periods of high leverage in the short-to-medium term. We cut FY24/FY25 EBITDA 1%/9% and roll valuations over to FY26, assigning the stock a 12x EV/EBITDA (vs. 11x). This yields a revised TP of Rs 2,443 (vs. Rs 2,286) – we maintain HOLD as current valuations look fair.

Key changes

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	Target	Rating	
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Ticker/Price	DALBHARA IN/Rs 2,205
Market cap	US\$ 5.0bn
Free float	44%
3M ADV	US\$ 10.3mn
52wk high/low	Rs 2,431/Rs 1,672
Promoter/FPI/DII	56%/12%/8%

Source: NSE | Price as of 25 Jan 2024

Key financials

FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
1,35,400	1,49,452	1,67,161
23,160	27,584	34,057
6,321	8,083	12,048
34.2	43.7	65.1
34.2	48.7	68.8
4.7	5.5	8.2
64.5	50.5	33.9
17.9	16.0	13.0
(41.9)	27.9	49.1
	1,35,400 23,160 6,321 34.2 34.2 4.7 64.5 17.9	1,35,400 1,49,452 23,160 27,584 6,321 8,083 34.2 43.7 34.2 48.7 4.7 5.5 64.5 50.5 17.9 16.0

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance



Source: NSE





Fig 1 – Earnings call highlights

Parameter	Q3FY24	Q2FY24	Our view
Volumes and Realisations	DBL's volumes grew 8% YoY to 6.8mt in Q3FY24. Cement prices improved 4% QoQ in eastern and southern markets. However, prices weakened and closed near Sep'23 levels by Q3-end. Management expects prices to recover marginally in Q4FY24 and is guiding for 15-16% volume growth in FY24 and FY25.	Q2 volume growth softened to 7% YoY due to loss of market share in the eastern region (West Bengal and Bihar). Management has made corrections for past pricing decisions taken in the east and expects to see results in terms of volume and market share from Q4. Overall, DBL expects above- industry volume growth for FY24.	We expect volume growth to pick up from H2FY24 but find the company's guidance aggressive even without pricing pressure.
Margins	Power and fuel cost declined 25% YoY due to a Rs 53/t fall in fuel consumption cost. Management expects fuel cost to reduce marginally by 3% in Q4FY24 as renewable energy share is back to 25-30% of the total. Freight cost per tonne dipped 2% YoY due to a 20km reduction in lead distance. Management expects EBITDA/t of Rs 1.1k-1.2k in FY25.	EBITDA grew 56% YoY (-3% QoQ) to Rs 5.9bn due to a weaker Q2FY23 base, improvement in cost structure (overall cost/t down 8% YoY) and price hikes taken in the eastern and southern regions.	Cost savings are commendable, and costs should soften further with the increasing use of captive power. While the reductions in pet coke and thermal coal prices could reverse, renewable power could provide further respite. Sustained pricing in the eastern and southern regions will be the key to earnings growth for DBL.
Capacity	Debottlenecking of 0.9mt of capacity at Belgaum, Karnataka, has been commissioned during Q3FY24. Debottlenecking of 1mt each at Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu, and Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, is due to be completed by Q4, taking DBL's total capacity in the south to 17mt by FY24. A 0.5mt debottlenecking at Kalyanpur, Bihar, and 2.4mt greenfield expansion at Lanka, Assam, is expected to complete by H2FY25. Management intends to increase capacity to 46.6mt by Q4FY24 (excluding Jaypee capacity in Central India).	DBL expects to add 2.4mt of capacity in the northeast by FY26 with further additions of 0.5mt in Bihar (board approval received) and 2.9mt in the south by end-FY24. The 2mt Sattur plant at Tamil Nadu has been commercialised, taking DBL's total cement capacity to 43.7mt as on Q2FY24. Management aims to reach 46.6mt by the end of FY24. Clinker capacity has been increased to 22.2mt as on Q2FY24 following a 0.5mt debottlenecking activity in Tamil Nadu, and management aims to reach 22.9mt by end-FY24.	Sweating of assets will be challenging as the company walks a tightrope between balancing cement pricing and raising dispatches. DBL has enough capacity to handle incremental demand given the headroom capacity available and new additions planned.
Capex	Capex guidance for FY24 (ex-Jaypee deal) is maintained at ~Rs 30bn and Jaypee acquisition cash outflow is expected to be ~Rs 33bn. Capex guidance for FY25 stands at Rs 30bn-35bn (maintenance capex of ~Rs 2.5bn).	Capex guidance for FY24 is ~Rs 65bn, of which Rs 35bn is earmarked for the Jaypee acquisition and the balance Rs 30bn for organic expansion (including expansion projects in the northeast and at RCW).	Prudent capex for organic and inorganic capacity addition will be key.
Other key points	Gross debt as on Q3FY24 stood at Rs 49.2bn, net debt at ~Rs 4.3bn and net debt-to-EBITDA ratio at 0.16x (guided to remain below 2x post Jaypee deal). Incentive accruals during Q3FY24 were Rs 0.7bn and collections Rs 1.5bn. Incentive receivables as on 31 Dec 2023 were at Rs 7.2bn	Gross debt as on Q2FY24 stood at Rs 52.9bn. Net debt totalled Rs 15bn (guidance of Rs 30bn-40bn post JPA deal) and net debt/EBITDA at 0.59x (guidance of 1x post Jaypee deal). Incentive accruals during Q2FY24 were ~Rs 0.5bn and collections ~Rs 0.3bn. Incentive receivables as on 30 Sep 2023 stood at ~Rs 7.8bn	The company must prioritise balance sheet health against its expansion needs.



Parameter	Q3FY24	Q2FY24	Our view
	The Jaypee acquisition is expected to be completed by Q4FY24 as some approvals from lenders are still pending	The Jaypee acquisition continues to be delayed with lender approvals pending from ~35 banks. Management expects to conclude the transaction by end-FY24.	
		DBL will be acquiring a 20% additional stake in Calcom Cement via a rights issue, but the legal dispute with the Calcom promoters remains unresolved (judgement in favour of DBL in the High Court, but Calcom can challenge the same in the Supreme Court).	

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | RCW: Rohtas Cement Works; WHRS: Waste Heat Recovery System

Fig 2 - Key metrics

(Rs)	Q3FY24	Q3FY23	YoY (%)	Q2FY24	QoQ (%)
Volumes (mn mt)	6.8	6.3	7.9	6.2	9.7
Cement realisations (Rs/mt)	5,294	5,325	(0.6)	5,079	4.2
Operating costs (Rs/mt)*	4,154	4,302	(3.4)	4,129	0.6
EBITDA/t (Rs)	1,113	997	11.6	923	20.6

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | *Aggregate cost

Fig 3 - Quarterly performance

(Rs mn)	Q3FY24	Q3FY23	YoY (%)	Q2FY24	QoQ (%)
Net Sales	36,000	33,550	7.3	31,490	14.3
Expenditure					
Change in stock	(140)	(1,240)	(88.7)	(390)	(64.1)
Raw material	5,000	4,930	1.4	4,550	9.9
Purchased products	1,400	10	13,900.0	1,170	19.7
Power & fuel	7,260	9,640	(24.7)	6,980	4.0
Freight	7,430	7,020	5.8	6,310	17.7
Employee costs	2,210	1,930	14.5	2,260	(2.2)
Other expense	5,090	4,810	5.8	4,720	7.8
Total Operating Expenses	28,250	27,100	4.2	25,600	10.4
EBITDA	7,750	6,450	20.2	5,890	31.6
EBITDA margin (%)	21.5	19.2	230bps	18.7	282bps
Other Income	640	350	82.9	850	(24.7)
Interest	1,080	690	56.5	1,010	6.9
Depreciation	3,700	3,250	13.8	4,010	(7.7)
Share of profit from associate and joint venture	0	20	(100.0)	0	0.0
PBT	3,610	2,880	25.3	1,720	109.9
Non-recurring items	0	0	0.0	0	0
PBT (after non-recurring items)	3,610	2,880	25.3	1,720	109.9
Tax	(950)	(740)	28.4	(480)	97.9
PAT	2,660	2,140	24.3	1,240	114.5
Minority Interest	(30)	(140)	(78.6)	(50)	(40.0)
Adjusted PAT	2,630	2,000	31.5	1,190	121.0
NPM (%)	7.3	6.0	134bps	3.8	353bps
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	13.8	10.5	31.5	6.3	121.0
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research					

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Fig 4 - Volume gains healthy but lack realisation support

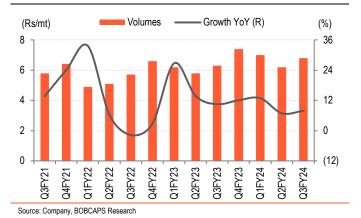


Fig 5 – Weak demand keeps pricing under pressure

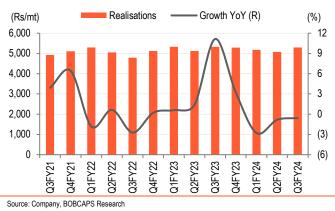


Fig 6 – Cost savings aid margin gains

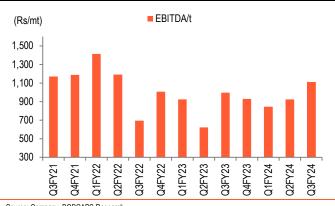
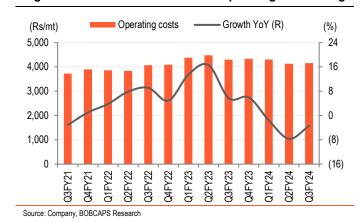
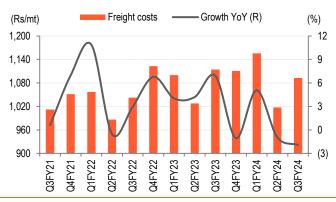


Fig 7 – Further levers available for operating cost savings



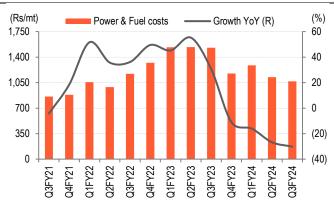
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 – Freight cost inches up due to higher clinker movement



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 9 - Limited scope for further power cost savings



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Valuation methodology

Supported by planned capacity expansion in FY25/FY26, DBL will continue its efforts to drive market share. However, narrowing the gap between its regional dispatches and large capacities will be a challenge amid soft demand. The company has retained its focus on improving the balance sheet and controlling debt with good success, but its aggressive capex plans do imply intermittent periods of high leverage in the short-to-medium term.

We prune our FY24/FY25 EBITDA estimates by 1%/9% to bake in the Q3FY24 results and also introduce FY26 forecasts for the company. Assigning the stock, a 12x EV/EBITDA multiple (vs.11x earlier) and rolling valuations over to FY26E, we have a revised TP of Rs 2,443 (vs. Rs 2,286) – which reflects an implied replacement cost of Rs 8.6bn. We maintain HOLD as current valuations look fair. The higher multiple is to factor in growth prospects, relatively better margin profile and improving balance sheet as a key focus area.

Fig 10 - Revised estimates

(Do mm)		New			Old			Change (%)		
(Rs mn)	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	
Revenue	149,452	167,161	188,816	153,921	177,753	-	(2.9)	(6.0)	-	
EBITDA	27,584	34,057	40,303	27,895	37,447	-	(1.1)	(9.1)	-	
Adj PAT	8,083	12,048	15,606	9,537	15,138	-	(15.2)	(20.4)	-	
Adj EPS (Rs)	43.7	65.1	84.4	51.5	81.8	-	(15.1)	(20.4)	-	

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 11 - Key assumptions

Parameter	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Volumes (mt)	24.9	27.6	30.9	34.6
Realisations (Rs/mt)	5,318	5,294	5,294	5,347
Operating costs (Rs/mt)	4,514	4,416	4,306	4,290
EBITDA/mt (Rs)	931	999	1,102	1,164

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 12 - Valuation summary

Business (Rs mn)	FY26E
Target FY25E EV/EBITDA (x)	12.0
EBITDA (FY25E)	40,303
Target EV	483,631
Total EV	483,631
Net debt (FY25E)	31,436
Target market capitalisation	452,195
Target price (Rs/sh)	2,444
Weighted average shares (mn)	185.0

Source: BOBCAPS Research



Fig 13 - Peer comparison

		TP	EV/EBITDA (x)		EV/tonne (US\$)		ROE (%)			ROCE (%)				
Ticker Rating	(Rs)	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	
DALBHARA IN	HOLD	2,443	17.9	16.0	13.0	130	109	105	4.7	5.5	8.2	5.4	6.6	9.1
SRCM IN	HOLD	24,792	33.6	21.2	16.5	208	207	202	7.5	10.7	12.7	9.4	14.7	16.8
ACC IN	BUY	2,158	17.9	11.9	8.8	121	106	98	5.2	8.1	11.2	7.9	11.0	14.5

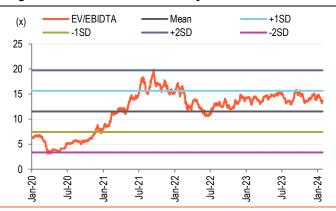
Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 14 - EV/EBITDA band: Stock appears fairly valued



Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 15 - EV/EBITDA 1Y fwd: Likely to revert to mean

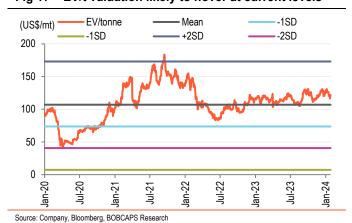


Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 16 - Replacement cost leaves no headroom for rerating



Fig 17 - EV/t valuation likely to hover at current levels



Key risks

- Slower-than-expected market recovery, sluggish demand pickup and fuel cost inflation represent key downside risks to earnings.
- Faster-than-expected cost deflation and better realisations pose upside risks to our earnings estimates.



Sector recommendation snapshot

Company	Ticker	Market Cap (US\$ bn)	Price (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating
Ambuja Cements	ACEM IN	13.5	560	449	HOLD
Dalmia Bharat	DALBHARA IN	5.0	2,205	2,443	HOLD
JK Cement	JKCE IN	3.9	4,167	4,121	HOLD
JK Lakshmi Cement	JKLC IN	1.3	931	551	SELL
Orient Cement	ORCMNT IN	0.7	275	128	SELL
Shree Cement	SRCM IN	12.3	27,949	24,792	HOLD
Star Cement	STRCEM IN	0.9	182	159	HOLD
The Ramco Cements	TRCL IN	2.8	969	661	SELL
Ultratech Cement	UTCEM IN	35.0	9,969	11,510	BUY

Source: BOBCAPS Research, NSE | Price as of 25 Jan 2024



Financials

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue	1,12,860	1,35,400	1,49,452	1,67,161	1,88,816
EBITDA	24,310	23,160	27,584	34,057	40,303
Depreciation	(12,360)	(13,050)	(15,138)	(16,046)	(17,009)
EBIT	13,500	11,490	14,043	19,704	25,187
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(2,020)	(2,349)	(3,892)	(4,215)	(4,187)
Other inc./(exp.)	1,550	1,380	1,597	1,693	1,893
Exceptional items	(20)	3,850	0	0	0,000
EBT	11,460	12,991	10,151	15,489	20,999
Income taxes	140	(2,420)	(1,916)	(3,288)	(5,150)
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0,200)	(0,100)
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	(160)	(400)	(153)	(153)	(243)
Reported net profit	11,440	10,171	8,083	12,048	15,606
Adjustments	(20)	3,850	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	11,460	6,321	8,083	12,048	15,606
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Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Accounts payables	15,300	18,120	27,800	29,449	31,845
Other current liabilities	15,810	20,630	21,407	20,362	19,369
Provisions	6,060	3,200	3,520	3,872	4,259
Debt funds	33,600	39,800	48,777	48,993	47,855
Other liabilities	19,620	14,940	19,784	19,686	19,686
Equity capital	390	370	370	370	370
Reserves & surplus	1,57,210	1,56,900	1,42,849	1,52,947	1,66,603
Shareholders' fund	1,58,320	1,58,430	1,43,775	1,53,971	1,67,627
Total liab. and equities	2,48,710	2,55,120	2,65,062	2,76,333	2,90,641
Cash and cash eq.	45,590	32,200	16,569	14,983	16,419
Accounts receivables	6,730	7,000	7,954	9,158	10,650
Inventories	9,450	13,160	14,602	16,437	18,711
Other current assets	23,340	30,300	30,033	31,535	33,111
Investments	13,050	5,890	5,890	9,890	14,890
Net fixed assets	1,01,220	96,351	1,21,658	1,18,630	1,17,777
CWIP	10,480	18,590	14,872	19,334	19,527
Intangible assets	38,850	51,629	53,484	56,365	59,557
Deferred tax assets, net	0	0	0	0	0
Other assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	2,48,710	2,55,120	2,65,062	2,76,333	2,90,641
Cash Flows					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Cash flow from operations	17,430	19,870	30,910	17,208	23,031
Capital expenditures	(12,580)	(36,159)	(32,627)	(13,005)	(13,265)
Change in investments	(16,710)	21,800	16,706	(5,000)	(6,000)
Other investing cash flows	0	0	0	0	0
Cash flow from investing	(29,290)	(14,359)	(15,922)	(18,005)	(19,265)
Equities issued/Others	340	250	(757)	(55)	(243)
Debt raised/repaid	(6,930)	6,200	8,977	217	(1,138)
Interest expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	(1,000)	(1,690)	(1,665)	(1,850)	(1,850)
Other financing cash flows	18,580	(9,021)	(20,469)	(100)	(100)
Cash flow from financing	10,990	(4,261)	(13,915)	(1,788)	(3,331)
Chg in cash & cash eq.	(870)	1,250	1,074	(2,585)	435
Closing cash & cash eq.	45,590	32,200	16,569	14,983	16,419

Per Share	=>/00.1	=>/00.4	=>/0.4=	=>/0==	=>/0.0=
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Reported EPS	58.7	55.0	43.7	65.1	84.4
Adjusted EPS	58.8	34.2	43.7	65.1	84.4
Dividend per share	5.1	9.1	9.0	10.0	10.0
Book value per share	811.9	856.4	777.2	832.3	906.1
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
EV/Sales	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.0
EV/EBITDA	16.3	17.9	16.0	13.0	9.3
Adjusted P/E	37.5	64.5	50.5	33.9	26.1
P/BV	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.4
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	101.2	81.4	81.1	78.8	75.5
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	85.0	79.6	72.3	78.6	83.4
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	12.0	8.5	9.4	11.8	13.3
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	48.1	53.7	57.5	61.8	66.6
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8
Adjusted ROAE	8.1	4.7	5.5	8.2	9.9
Ratio Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
YoY growth (%)		1 120/1		1 1202	11202
Revenue	11.6	20.0	10.4	11.8	13.0
EBITDA	(12.2)	(4.7)	19.1	23.5	18.3
Adjusted EPS	(4.9)	(41.9)	27.9	49.1	29.5
Profitability & Return ratios (%)	(1.0)	(11.0)	21.0	10.1	20.0
EBITDA margin	21.5	17.1	18.5	20.4	21.3
EBIT margin	12.0	8.5	9.4	11.8	13.3
Adjusted profit margin	10.2	4.7	5.4	7.2	8.3
Adjusted ROAE	8.1	4.7	5.5	8.2	9.9
ROCE	6.8	5.4	6.6	9.1	11.0
Working capital days (days)	0.0	J. 1	0.0	V .1	
Receivables	22	19	19	20	21
Inventory	31	35	36	36	36
Payables	63	59	83	81	78
Ratios (x)					
Gross asset turnover	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Note: TA = Total Assets

2.3

6.7

0.2

2.0

4.9

0.3

1.3

3.6

0.3

1.3

4.7

0.3

1.4

6.0

0.3

Current ratio

Net interest coverage ratio

Adjusted debt/equity



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BUY - Expected return >+15%

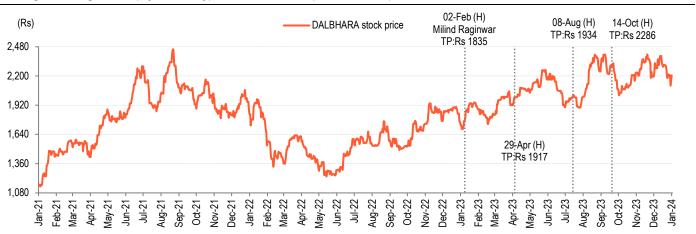
HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

Our recommendation scale does not factor in short-term stock price volatility related to market fluctuations. Thus, our recommendations may not always be strictly in line with the recommendation scale as shown above.

Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): DALMIA BHARAT (DALBHARA IN)



 $B-Buy,\,H-Hold,\,S-Sell,\,A-Add,\,R-Reduce$

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DALMIA BHARAT



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