

SELL**TP: Rs 1,742 | ▼ 12%****DALMIA BHARAT**

| Cement

| 25 April 2025

Quarterly show improves; challenges continue unabated

- Revenue declined by 5% YoY (+30% QoQ) to ~Rs 41bn, as volume growth stunted and realisations fell despite slower volume gains
- Cost savings of 8% driven by lower energy cost, help mitigate earnings weakness and help margin gains
- Maintain our EBITDA for FY26E/FY27E valuing stock at 12x EV/EBITDA 1Y fwd. Maintain SELL; TP revised to Rs 1,742 (Rs 1,689) on rollover

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Volume and realisations stay soft: DALBHARA's revenue fell by ~5% YoY (+28.6% QoQ) to ~Rs 40.9bn in Q4FY25, as volume and realisations remained muted. Volume fell by 2.3% YoY (+28.4% QoQ) to 8.6mn tonnes. Realisations were down by 2.8% YoY (+0.19% QoQ) to Rs 4,757/t. Cement prices fell in DALBHARA's operating regions in East and South India, keeping the capacity utilisation at ~65%.

Lower energy expense key cost-savings driver: Overall cost has softened by 7.6% YoY to Rs 3,835/t (down 3.8% QoQ). Cost savings were driven by an ~11% YoY fall in power expenses (adjusted for raw materials) to Rs 1,789/t. Fuel consumption cost declined further to US\$ 95/t from US\$ 114/t YoY and improvement in RE to 39% from 34% YoY. Fuel cost in Q4FY25 was Rs 1.30/kcal. Total operational RE power capacity now stands at 267MW. Logistics cost was listless, staying flat; while other expenditure fell by 14% YoY due to the maintenance and marketing costs in Q4FY24.

EBITDA increase healthy: EBITDA rose up by 21.2% YoY (55.2% QoQ) to ~Rs 7.9bn driven by cost softening, consequently EBITDA margin was up to 19.4% from 15.2% in Q4FY24. EBITDA/t also inflated by 24.9%/21.7% YoY/QoQ to Rs 895/t. APAT was up 38% YoY to Rs 4.35bn driven by higher other income and lower tax.

Capex to boost capacities: The company indicated capex of Rs35bn towards capacity expansion in Karnataka by 3mnt and 3 mnt new grinding unit in Pune. North-east expansion will be completed and additional funds will be invested in renewable energy projects, with a target of reaching 595 MW by the end of FY26.

No estimates change; Maintain SELL: We maintain our FY26/FY27 EBITDA estimates, factoring continued expectations of slow pricing growth and no major substitutes for JAL assets. We continue to assign the stock an EV/EBITDA of 12x 1YF given the growth trajectory and healthy balance sheet (as of now). However, we revise our TP to Rs 1,742 (from Rs 1,689) on rollover, reflecting a replacement cost (implied) of Rs 8.5bn. We maintain our SELL rating on DALBHARA.

Key changes

Target	Rating
▲	◀ ▶

Ticker/Price	DALBHARA IN/Rs 1,974
Market cap	US\$ 4.3bn
Free float	44%
3M ADV	US\$ 6.7mn
52wk high/low	Rs 1,983/Rs 1,601
Promoter/FPI/DII	56%/12%/8%

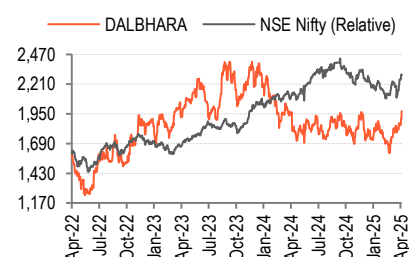
Source: NSE | Price as of 24 Apr 2025

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	1,39,800	1,57,942	1,77,680
EBITDA (Rs mn)	24,070	27,606	32,332
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	8,120	7,707	10,404
Adj. EPS (Rs)	42.7	41.7	56.2
Consensus EPS (Rs)	40.9	58.4	76.3
Adj. ROAE (%)	4.6	4.7	6.5
Adj. P/E (x)	46.2	47.4	35.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.9	12.4	9.9
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(4.9)	(2.5)	35.0

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance



Source: NSE



Fig 1 – Earnings call highlights

Parameters	Q4FY25	Q3FY25	Our view
Volumes and realisations	Volumes fell by 3% YoY to Rs 8.6mn tonnes. However, sales from Dalmia plant excluding the JAL grew by 4%. In FY25, growth was around 6%. Revenue witnessed 8.6% QoQ gains, driven by volume and price increase. Factor contributing to revenue was the improvement in premium product mix to 24% from 21% and the trade mix also improved to 67% from 65 %. For FY25, revenue fell by 4.8% YoY owing to softness in prices	Volumes declined by 2% YoY to 6.7mn tonnes, as 0.37mn tonnes of tolling volumes earlier contributed by JPA have now been discontinued. However, sales from Dalmia Plants grew 3.7% YoY in Q3FY25. Revenue declined 12% YoY, due to the sharp decline in cement prices. Management observed price improvements in Dec'24 and expects better prices in Q4FY25, led by higher demand. Management expects Q4FY25 to grow 6-7% YoY, which translates to full-year growth of 3-4% YoY. DALBHARA had a capacity utilisation of ~60-65%	Volume pressure from industry in 2H will sustain pricing pressure in the eastern and southern regions of India. DALBHARA's focus continues to shift to market share over a period of time. Prices, however, may reverse from the recent weak trajectory.
Margins	As per the ongoing efforts of the management to reduce cost 2.2MW solar power plant in Lanka, Assam has been added and another 13 MW capacity is also commissioned under group captive arrangement. Fuel cost per tonne declined by 7% YoY to Rs 945/t, driven by a decline in fuel consumption cost from \$114 to \$95 and a subsequent improvement in renewable energy to 39% from 34%. Blended fuel cost during the quarter declined to Rs 1.30/kcal (Rs1.31/kcal in Q3FY25). There is some volatility expected in fuel prices as the spot prices are volatile and global macroeconomic uncertainties. Logistics cost declined by 2% YoY to Rs 1,135/t as direct dispatch increased from 56% in Q4FY24 to 61% Q4FY25.	Management is committed to cost reduction through internal measures to the tune of Rs 150-200/tonne by FY27. Energy cost declined 9% YoY to Rs 1,005/t, with US\$ 26/t reduction in fuel consumption cost to US\$ 96/t YoY and improvement in renewable energy from 30% to 33% YoY. Fuel cost during the quarter was Rs 1.31/kcal (1.36 kcal in Q2FY25). Logistics cost increased by 2.7% on YoY basis to Rs 1,120/t due to supply to Central India from its eastern plants due to the discontinuation of the JP tolling arrangement.	Focus on renewable power could provide further respite in cost savings. Any announcement in the Central India capacity expansion to replace lost JAL opportunity will help the company in long term.
Capacity	Milestone of 49.5mnt cement capacity has been achieved. The company has commissioned a 2.4mnt grinding unit at Lank, Assam and 0.5mnt unit at Bihar. Further capacity expansion plan of 3mnt at the Belgaum plant has been announced and a new greenfield 3mnt grinding plant at Pune is expected to be commissioned by the end of FY27. This 6mnt capacity will mainly cater to the demand in Maharashtra.	DALBHARA completed debottlenecking at Rajgangpur, Odisha (0.6mnt), and Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh (0.3mnt), resulting in a total clinker capacity of 23.5mnt. It has an installed cement capacity currently of 46.6mnt and is on track to achieve 49.5mnt capacity by FY25-end.	At ~65% capacity utilisation, DALBHARA has enough capacity to handle incremental demand. However, according to management, it is incurring capex in areas where the plant capacity has high utilisation and in newer geographies.
Capex	Total capex for FY25 was ~Rs 24bn; significant investments were made in ongoing projects, including the expansion milestones and renewable energy projects. For FY26, management has increased their guidance to Rs 35bn, which will be focussed on the expansion of Belgaum plant, new plant at Pune and other future projects.	In Q3FY25, total capex incurred was of Rs 6.57bn. Total guidance for FY25 is Rs 30bn, largely for Northeast and Bihar expansion. Management expects FY26 capex in be Rs 25bn-30bn. Despite the capex, the company is committed to maintaining a net debt/EBITDA of up to 2x.	Prudent capex for organic and inorganic capacity addition will be key for growth. Importantly, capex addition has to be without major/no stress on the balance sheet. We will keenly watch the capital allocation of the company.
Other key points	Gross debt stood at Rs 52.8bn - an increase of Rs 6.3bn vs March '24. Net debt as of	As at 31 December 2024, gross debt increased to Rs 54.57bn (Rs 47.84bn in	DALBHARA must maintain balance sheet health with its

Parameters	Q4FY25	Q3FY25	Our view
	<p>March '25 was Rs 7.16bn. Resultant net debt to EBITDA ratio stands at 0.3x.</p> <p>In April 2025, a provisional attachment order amounting to Rs 7.9bn was issued by Pune authorities. This stems from a case originally registered by the CBI in 2011, involving allegations related to the company's investments in Bharti Cement. The company clarified that this order does not impact its running operations and they plan to take appropriate legal steps to defend their position.</p> <p>During the quarter, the company accrued Rs 0.9bn in incentives. Total incentive accruals for FY25 were Rs 33.6bn. Collections against these accruals were about Rs 30.7bn.</p>	<p>Q3FY24) and net debt to Rs 12.42bn (Rs 6.44bn in Q3FY24) taking net debt/EBITDA to 0.55x.</p> <p>Due to the death of 3 factory workers, Rajgangpur's captive power plant has been shut till corrective measures are taken. Production is to be unaffected.</p> <p>In Q3FY25, accrued incentives are Rs 1.02bn with collections at Rs 1.22bn. Additional extension of incentives of one plant amounting to Rs 0.14bn. Management expects Rs 3.25bn of incentives for the full year.</p>	<p>expansion needs. With major capex expected in FY26E/FY27E and FY28E, the balance sheet could be impacted.</p> <p>The ED provisional attachment is a key negative in our view and will have a negative bearing on the company.</p> <p>Incentives extension is a positive development in the challenging phase currently.</p>

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 2 – Key metrics

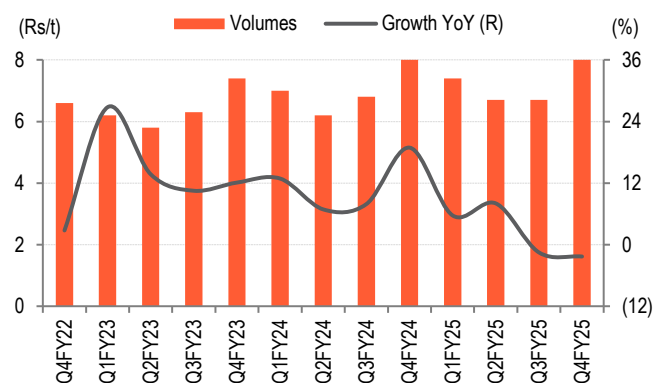
	4QFY25	4QFY24	YoY (%)	3QFY25	QoQ (%)	4QFY25E	Deviation (%)
Volumes (mn mt)	8.6	8.8	(2.3)	6.7	28.4	8.8	(2.8)
Cement realisations (Rs/t)	4,757	4,895	(2.8)	4,748	0.2	4,748	0.2
Operating costs (Rs/t)	3,835	4,151	(7.6)	3,985	(3.8)	3,871	(0.9)
EBITDA/t (Rs)	895	717	24.9	736	21.7	850	5.4

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

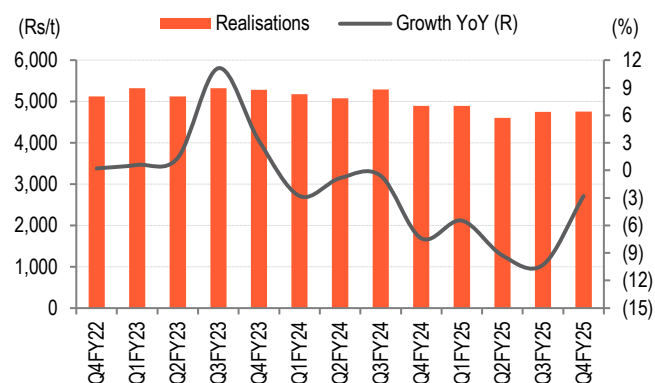
Fig 3 – Quarterly performance

(Rs mn)	4QFY25	4QFY24	YoY (%)	3QFY25	QoQ (%)	4QFY25E	Deviation (%)
Net Sales	40,910	43,073	(5.0)	31,810	28.6	41,989	(2.6)
Expenditure							
Change in stock	1,420	1,370	3.6	20	7,000.0	1,410	
Raw material	6,240	6,270	(0.5)	5,100	22.4	6,757	(7.6)
purchased products	0	2,140	(100.0)	0		0	
Power & fuel	7,730	7,900	(2.2)	6,660	16.1	8,817	(12.3)
Freight	9,720	10,200	(4.7)	7,480	29.9	9,693	0.3
Employee costs	2,150	2,020	6.4	2,230	(3.6)	2,250	(4.4)
Other exp	5,720	6,630	(13.7)	5,210	9.8	5,310	7.7
Total Operating Expenses	32,980	36,530	(9.7)	26,700	23.5	34,237	(3.7)
EBITDA	7,930	6,543	21.2	5,110	55.2	7,752	2.3
EBITDA margin (%)	19.4	15.2	419bps	16.1	332bps	18.5	92bps
Other Income	930	1,200	(22.5)	370	151.4	380	144.7
Interest	1,050	940	11.7	1,010	4.0	1,117	(6.0)
Depreciation	3,140	3,280	(4.3)	3,640	(13.7)	3,670	(14.4)
PBT	4,670	3,523	32.6	830	462.7	3,345	39.6
Non-recurring items	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	
PBT (after non-recurring items)	4,670	3,523	32.6	830	462.7	3,345	39.6
Tax	280	320	(12.5)	170	64.7	535	(47.7)
Reported PAT	4,390	3,203	37.1	660	565.2	2,810	56.2
Adjusted PAT	4,350	3,153	38.0	610	613.1	2,765	57.3
NPM (%)	10.6	7.3	331bps	1.9	872bps	6.6	405bps
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	23.5	17.0	38.0	3.3	613.1	14.9	57

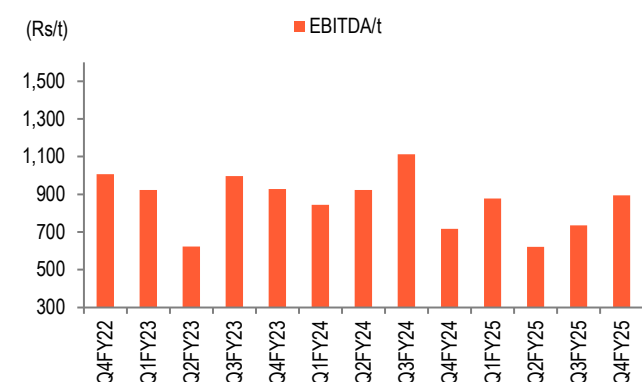
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 4 – Regional mix keeps revenue growth limited

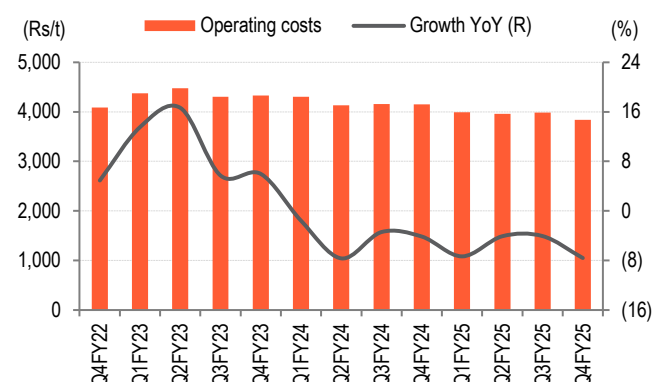
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 5 – Supply matches demand, keeping prices listless

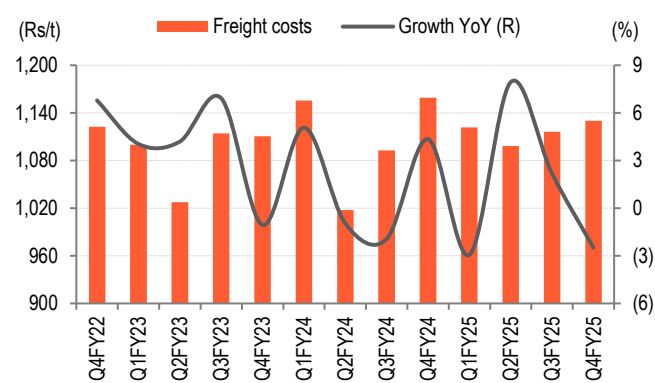
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – EBITDA/t boost only by cost savings

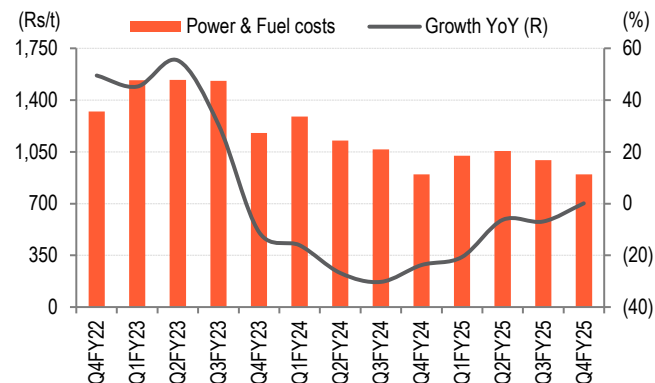
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 7 – Operating cost unlikely to soften further

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 – Freight cost inflation will continue due to higher inter-unit cost

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 9 – Green energy initiatives may further boost fuel cost savings

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Valuation methodology

We maintain our earlier stance that DALBHARA's drive to add market share through expansion is likely to receive a setback with limited alternatives for the Jaiprakash Associates (JAL) assets in Central India. To keep investing in the channel network (in the central region), DALBHARA will continue to feed this market from East India as it has limited options in the central region currently. However, any effort to replace this lost opportunity will be keenly watched.

We believe this, coupled with the focus now on capacity expansion from FY26-FY27 for the first leg of major capacity addition, may put some pressure on the balance sheet in the medium term as is reflected in 4Q with the addition of net debt. Capacity addition in North East India will contribute fully in FY27 and DALBHARA is unlikely to disturb pricing in the region, as capacity will match demand in the region with many companies planning to enter the region, making it less lucrative. Cost savings plans notwithstanding, we feel this could lead to additional concerns for DALBHARA.

Most active regions for DALBHARA are the eastern (44% volume contribution with new capacity addition) and southern regions (28% volume contribution); they are expected to face severe pricing pressure due to vulnerability of excess supply. Given the changed dynamics with two major cement groups acquiring mid-/large-size companies, supply pressure in this region is likely to increase. Though DALBHARA has a strong presence in South Tamil Nadu (better pricing area), we feel this may be of limited advantage for the company.

Factoring in the same, our FY26/FY27 EBITDA estimates factor in expectations of slow pricing growth and no major substitutes for JAL assets till FY27/FY28. However, we continue to assign the stock an EV/EBITDA of 12x 1YF (Dec 2027), given the growth trajectory and a healthy balance sheet. However, we revise our TP to Rs 1,742 (from Rs 1,689) on rollover reflecting a replacement cost (implied) of Rs 8.5bn. We maintain our SELL rating on DALBHARA.

Fig 10 – Key assumptions

	FY24	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Volumes (mt)	27.85	29.4	32.16	36.02
Realisations (Rs/t)	5,124	4,751	4,789	4,813
Operating costs (Rs/t)	4,328	3,942	4,052	4,035
EBITDA/t (Rs/t)	948	782	858	898

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 11 – Valuation summary

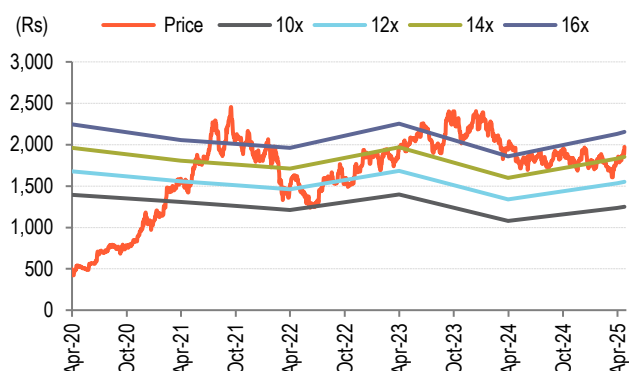
Business (Rs mn)	FY27E
Target FY27E EV/EBITDA (x)	12.0
EBITDA (FY27E)	32,332
Target EV	3,77,637
Total EV	3,77,637
Net debt (FY27E)	55,324
Target market capitalisation	3,22,313
Target price (Rs/sh)	1,742
Weighted average shares (mn)	185

Source: BOBCAPS Research | Valuation and TP based on Dec'27 earnings

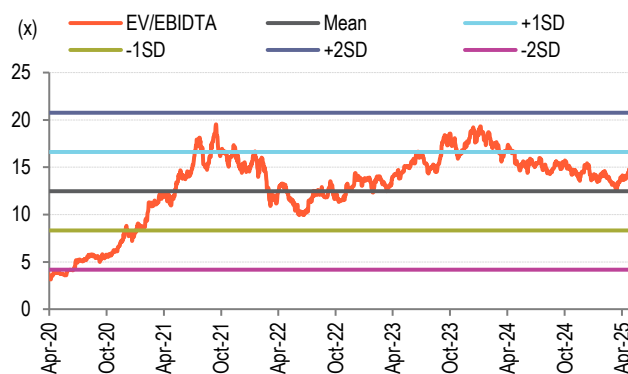
Fig 12 – Peer comparison

Ticker	Rating	TP	EV/EBITDA (x)			EV/tonne (US\$)			ROE (%)			ROCE (%)		
		(Rs)	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
DALBHARA IN	SELL	1,742	16.9	12.4	9.9	97.0	97.4	99.3	4.6	4.7	6.5	5.5	6.0	7.5
SRCM IN	HOLD	25,755	24.8	23.5	19.4	140.6	140.0	121.6	4.9	8.0	10.6	6.7	10.5	13.4
ACC IN	HOLD	2,282	11.3	8.2	7.7	110.6	101.2	90.9	12.0	13.0	13.0	14.0	15.4	15.2

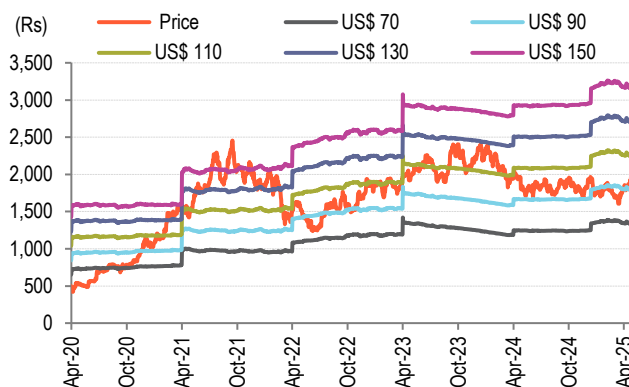
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 13 – EV/EBITDA band: Valuations ahead of earnings

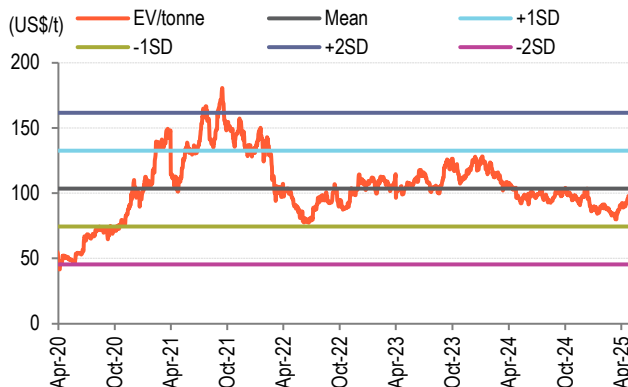
Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 14 – EV/EBITDA 1YF: Valuations converging to mean

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 15 – EV/tonne: Replacement cost reflects earnings pain

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 16 – EV/tonne 1YF: Valuations unlikely to rebound in a hurry

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Key risks

Key upside risks to our estimates are:

- Lower-than-expected fuel cost inflation
- Faster addition of capacity
- Faster-than-expected market recovery and strong demand pickup could reverse prices higher.

Financials

Income Statement

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue	1,35,400	1,46,910	1,39,800	1,57,942	1,77,680
EBITDA	23,160	26,390	24,070	27,606	32,332
Depreciation	(13,050)	(14,980)	(13,310)	(16,113)	(16,999)
EBIT	11,490	14,560	13,290	14,586	18,676
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(2,349)	(3,860)	(3,990)	(4,511)	(4,979)
Other inc./(exp.)	1,380	3,150	2,530	3,093	3,343
Exceptional items	3,850	0	(1,130)	0	0
EBT	12,991	10,700	8,170	10,075	13,696
Income taxes	(2,420)	(2,160)	(1,180)	(2,125)	(2,849)
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	(400)	0	0	(243)	(443)
Reported net profit	10,171	8,540	6,990	7,707	10,404
Adjustments	3,850	0	(1,130)	0	0
Adjusted net profit	6,321	8,540	8,120	7,707	10,404

Balance Sheet

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Accounts payables	18,120	20,280	21,983	24,637	26,413
Other current liabilities	20,630	21,130	28,067	20,776	19,769
Provisions	3,200	3,450	4,280	4,175	4,592
Debt funds	39,800	49,610	52,580	58,209	66,391
Other liabilities	14,940	16,480	19,100	20,396	21,176
Equity capital	370	380	380	370	370
Reserves & surplus	1,56,900	1,64,710	1,75,880	1,60,363	1,68,817
Shareholders' fund	1,58,430	1,66,105	1,77,520	1,61,511	1,70,032
Total liab. and equities	2,55,120	2,77,055	3,03,530	2,89,703	3,08,373
Cash and cash eq.	32,200	44,540	11,570	10,798	11,067
Accounts receivables	7,000	8,360	8,890	10,218	11,693
Inventories	13,160	12,180	13,860	15,695	17,421
Other current assets	30,300	24,870	27,520	27,990	30,018
Investments	5,890	5,900	42,450	4,400	5,900
Net fixed assets	96,351	1,07,626	1,04,598	1,03,745	1,02,892
CWIP	18,590	21,887	41,073	61,302	71,723
Intangible assets	51,629	51,692	53,569	55,555	57,659
Deferred tax assets, net	0	0	0	0	0
Other assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	2,55,120	2,77,055	3,03,530	2,89,703	3,08,373

Cash Flows

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Cash flow from operations	19,870	26,625	22,910	11,604	18,317
Capital expenditures	(36,159)	(23,220)	(26,725)	(32,095)	(22,405)
Change in investments	21,800	(9,380)	(6,550)	37,050	(2,000)
Other investing cash flows	0	0	0	0	0
Cash flow from investing	(14,359)	(32,600)	(33,275)	4,955	(24,405)
Equities issued/Others	250	5	245	(735)	(376)
Debt raised/repaid	6,200	9,810	2,970	5,629	8,183
Interest expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	(1,690)	(1,690)	(1,665)	(1,850)	(1,850)
Other financing cash flows	(9,021)	820	5,845	(21,374)	(100)
Cash flow from financing	(4,261)	8,945	7,395	(18,330)	5,857
Chg in cash & cash eq.	1,250	2,970	(2,970)	(1,772)	(231)
Closing cash & cash eq.	32,200	44,540	11,570	10,798	11,067

Per Share

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Reported EPS	55.0	44.9	36.8	41.7	56.2
Adjusted EPS	34.2	44.9	42.7	41.7	56.2
Dividend per share	9.1	8.9	8.8	10.0	10.0
Book value per share	856.4	874.2	934.3	873.0	919.1

Valuations Ratios

Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
EV/Sales	2.8	2.5	2.9	2.2	1.8
EV/EBITDA	16.1	14.0	16.9	12.4	9.9
Adjusted P/E	57.8	43.9	46.2	47.4	35.1
P/BV	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.1

DuPont Analysis

Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	81.4	79.8	85.6	78.9	79.2
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	79.6	73.5	70.0	69.1	73.3
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	8.5	9.9	9.5	9.2	10.5
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	53.7	55.2	48.2	53.2	59.4
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8
Adjusted ROAE	4.7	5.3	4.6	4.7	6.5

Ratio Analysis

Y/E 31 Mar	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
YoY growth (%)					
Revenue	20.0	8.5	(4.8)	13.0	12.5
EBITDA	(4.7)	13.9	(8.8)	14.7	17.1
Adjusted EPS	(41.9)	31.5	(4.9)	(2.5)	35.0
Profitability & Return ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	17.1	18.0	17.2	17.5	18.2
EBIT margin	8.5	9.9	9.5	9.2	10.5
Adjusted profit margin	4.7	5.8	5.8	4.9	5.9
Adjusted ROAE	4.7	5.3	4.6	4.7	6.5
ROCE	5.4	6.5	5.5	6.0	7.5

Working capital days (days)

Receivables	19	21	23	24	24
Inventory	35	30	36	36	36
Payables	59	61	69	69	66

Ratios (x)

Gross asset turnover	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7
Current ratio	2.0	2.0	1.1	1.3	1.4
Net interest coverage ratio	4.9	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.8
Adjusted debt/equity	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4

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

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Brand Name: **BOBCAPS**

Trade Name: **www.barodaetrade.com**

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Recommendation scale: Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY – Expected return >+15%

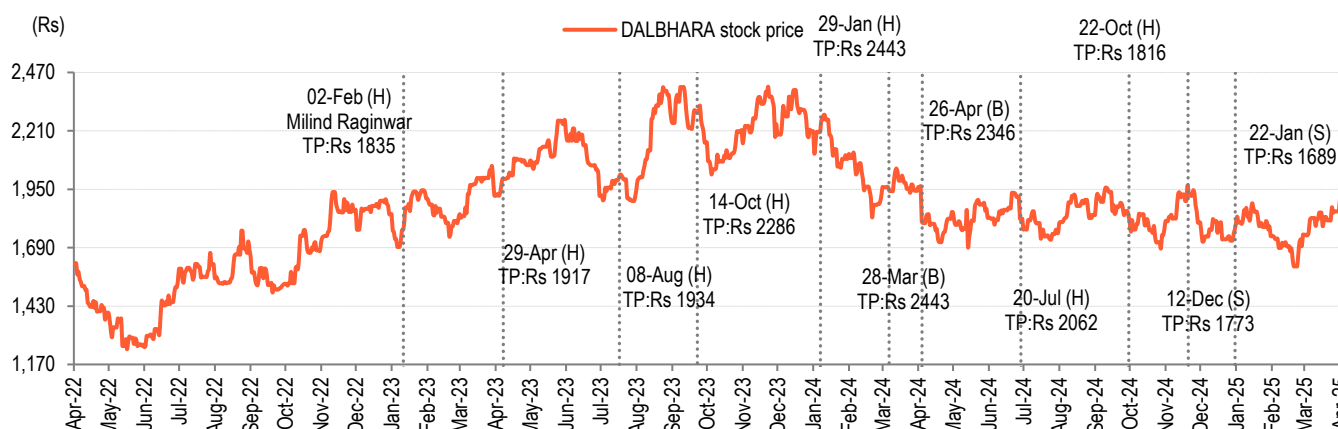
HOLD – Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL – Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

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



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