

FIRST LIGHT

13 January 2026

RESEARCH

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES | TARGET: Rs 3,377 | +4% | HOLD

Broadly in line; Talks of a 'good' 2026

HCL TECHNOLOGIES | TARGET: Rs 1,629 | -2% | HOLD

Solid beat on revenue

BOB ECONOMICS RESEARCH | CPI

CPI continues to be favourable for monetary easing

CEMENT | Q3FY26 PREVIEW

GST rate cut impact minimal; Demand picks up at the fag-end

CONSUMER STAPLES | Q3FY26 PREVIEW

GST-led demand revival

PHARMACEUTICALS | Q3FY26 PREVIEW

Another flat quarter is expected

REAL ESTATE | Q3FY26 PREVIEW

Strong demand for REIT assets to drive rents and occupancy

SUMMARY

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

- Revenue came in a tad short while margin was better than our estimates. AI and India drive growth QoQ
- Talks of improved decision making in North America. Reiterates target of increasing international revenue YoY and in 2026 versus 2025
- Broadly keep estimates. Reiterate HOLD with Target PE multiple of 21.7x (10 year mean less 0.5 SD) on Dec '27 EPS

[Click here for the full report.](#)

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HCL TECHNOLOGIES

- Much better-than-expected services and software QoQ performance. Raises guidance for services part and for the company for FY26
- While US\$3bn TCV is good, it needs to sustain and increase that for it grow at higher than peers on the US\$15bn revenue run rate
- Increase revenue estimates for FY27/FY28 a bit. Raise target PE multiple and bring it at par with that of TCS. Maintain Hold

[Click here for the full report.](#)

INDIA ECONOMICS: CPI

CPI continued to provide comfort led by favourable food inflation. Even sequential data showed loss of momentum for vegetables. The recent trajectory of retail prices of Tomato is witnessing some upward correction. However, the gap between retail and wholesale prices of Tomato is higher than historical average which shows some passthrough of lower wholesale prices is yet to show its effect. Further Q4 is the harvesting period of majority of these vegetables. Thus, mandi arrivals are likely to be supportive. For core inflation, the usual gold-driven increase in inflation persisted. However, Core excl.

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CEMENT: Q3FY26 PREVIEW

- A healthy ~16% (coverage universe) volume pick-up YoY despite late monsoon impact, driven by pick up in demand in the second half of Q3
- Cement prices in the non-trade segment fell more than the GST rate cut impact due to aggressive volume push by companies in few pockets
- Avg EBITDA margin (cement coverage) estimated at ~15%, up by ~44 bps YoY (-70bps QoQ), average EBITDA/t at ~Rs 817

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CONSUMER STAPLES: Q3FY26 PREVIEW

- GST rate cuts are expected to improve affordability in FY26, aiding volume recovery, particularly in mass and price-sensitive segments
- Margins are likely to expand gradually, aided by operating leverage and soft input costs, supporting steady profitability improvement
- GCPL, TCPL, and Marico are likely to outperform over peers and also benefit from moderating input costs

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PHARMACEUTICALS: Q3FY26 PREVIEW

- Sales/EBITDA/APAT for our coverage companies to grow by 7.9%/1.9%/-4.6% respectively. EBITDA margin to stay flat at 24.7%
- Domestic sales growth of 9.4%, driven by price hike and new launches. US to grow marginally at 2.8% given no Revlimid sales in 3QFY26
- CDMO companies' sales to rise 11% YoY on stable API prices. SUN, LPC & BOOT remain our top picks

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REAL ESTATE: Q3FY26 PREVIEW

- Leasing by GCCs and the preference for Grade A office assets made for a structurally strong environment for demand in REIT assets
- We expect occupancy and in-place rents to improve (+371bps and +4.10% YoY, respectively) as demand continues to outpace supply
- Improved occupancy, higher in-place rents and increased area under REIT management to drive DPU growth of ~+ 9.9 YoY and ~+0.9% QoQ

[Click here for the full report.](#)

HOLD
TP: Rs 3,377 | ▲ 4%
**TATA CONSULTANCY
SERVICES**

| IT Services

| 13 January 2026

Broadly in line; Talks of a 'good' 2026

- Revenue came in a tad short while margin was better than our estimates. AI and India drive growth QoQ
- Talks of improved decision making in North America. Reiterates target of increasing international revenue YoY and in 2026 versus 2025
- Broadly keep estimates. Reiterate HOLD with Target PE multiple of 21.7x (10 year mean less 0.5 SD) on Dec '27 EPS

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3QFY26 broadly in line: Revenue growth of 0.8% QoQ in CC terms fell a tad short of our estimate of 1.5% as BSNL business did not kick in as much as we anticipated. The EBIT margin at 25.2% (excluding one offs) was higher than the 24.5% that we estimated and was flat QoQ. Pyramid, operating efficiencies and forex offset wage related pressures on a QoQ basis.

Says it expects a 'good' 2026. Downside risks exist to our estimate: Based on client conversations, deal momentum and traction it is gaining in AI, TCS says it is confident of a good 2026 without giving further color. The sense we get is that it expects international revenue to improve in 2026/FY27 versus 2025/FY26. Unless TCV picks up materially in 4QFY26 and 1HFY27 we believe there is downside risk to our 4.3% US\$ revenue growth estimate in FY27 considering AI deflation.

AI and India drivers of growth QoQ: AI and India grew 17.3% and 8% QoQ in CC terms respectively. AI revenue for TCS is different from that of HCLT and Accenture.

AI is driving additional productivity pass back and self-cannibalization: TCS admitted that it is proactively approaching clients even before renewals happen and discuss AI related productivity pass back. But it says that it can get additional work from clients, leading to revenue remaining broadly similar. It also stated that if AI delivers higher than anticipated productivity gains during the life of the contract, it is willing to share that with its clients.

Value it at 21.7x Dec '27 EPS and maintain HOLD rating: Post 3QFY26, estimates for FY27/FY28 broadly maintained. We value TCS at a Target PE multiple of 21.7x which is 10 year mean less 0.5SD. The reason for that is the material deceleration in revenue/EPS growth that one has seen in recent years and the revenue deflation in its large book of legacy offerings due to AI. With it becoming more acquisitive in recent months we believe there could be dilution in its industry best margins and return ratios along with heightened integration risks. However, acquisitions ensure that TCS can at least hit mid-single digit revenue growth in the foreseeable future rather than low single digit one.

Key changes

	Target	Rating
	▲	◀ ▶

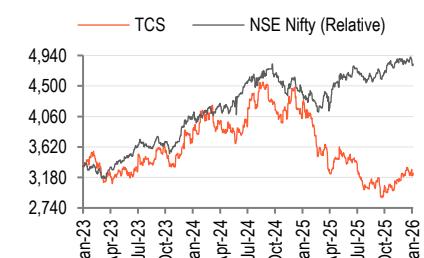
Ticker/Price	TCS IN/Rs 3,240
Market cap	US\$ 130.0bn
Free float	28%
3M ADV	US\$ 93.1mn
52wk high/low	Rs 4,323/Rs 2,867
Promoter/FPI/DII	72%/10%/13%

Source: NSE | Price as of 12 Jan 2026

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	2,553,240	2,638,214	2,793,638
EBITDA (Rs mn)	674,070	709,665	745,423
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	485,530	519,193	537,295
Adj. EPS (Rs)	134.2	134.0	148.5
Consensus EPS (Rs)	134.2	142.2	151.6
Adj. ROAE (%)	51.9	50.6	47.6
Adj. P/E (x)	24.1	24.2	21.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	17.6	16.7	15.9
Adj. EPS growth (%)	4.2	(0.1)	10.8

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance


Source: NSE



HOLD

TP: Rs 1,629 | ▼ 2%

HCL TECHNOLOGIES

| IT Services

| 13 January 2026

Solid beat on revenue

- Much better-than-expected services and software QoQ performance. Raises guidance for services part and for the company for FY26
- While US\$3bn TCV is good, it needs to sustain and increase that for it grow at higher than peers on the US\$15bn revenue run rate
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Revenue beat driven by both parts of the business: A 28% QoQ increase in Software revenue (our estimate of high teens growth) and a 1.8% increase in services revenue (primarily due to ERDS) drove 4.2% QoQ CC growth, beating our estimate of 2.5%. These are all like to like numbers comparable with 2QFY26. We thought services business growth would be around 1% QoQ. Despite the better revenue mix, the EBIT margin fell short of our estimate of 19% and came in at 18.6%. Believe part of the revenue surprise on the software side has come from a higher license revenue in the mix (this tends to be lumpy) compared the general move towards higher subscription.

TCV of US\$3bn is good but needs to sustain or improve on this to grow at a rate faster than Tier-1 peers: While the US\$3bn TCV (all net new) is among the best in recent years, it needs to sustain or improve on this to grow its US\$15bn revenue at faster than its immediate peer set. Aiming for US\$2.5bn in the upcoming quarters may not be enough.

Difficult to compare AI numbers across companies: We believe there is no apple-to-apple comparison on AI revenue across companies. The definition of Advanced AI is different across companies. In the case of HCLT it is agentic AI, Physical AI, and AI Factory programs.

Did not commit to return to margins of 18-19% in FY27: While HCLT had indicated one-offs to be among the reasons for 100bps lowering of guidance in FY26 (to 17-18%), it did not explicitly commit to a return to the 18-19% number by FY27. During 2QFY26 it stated that it wanted to cement its position as industry growth leader during a tectonic shift in the industry and stated that it would invest in its AI propositions.

Raise revenue, EPS and Target PE multiple and retain HOLD rating: The 3QFY26 revenue beat leads us to raise our estimates. We raise target PE multiple of 21.7x (the number accorded to TCS, our industry benchmark, compared to the 5% discount that we used to give it earlier).

Key changes

	Target	Rating
	▲	◀ ▶

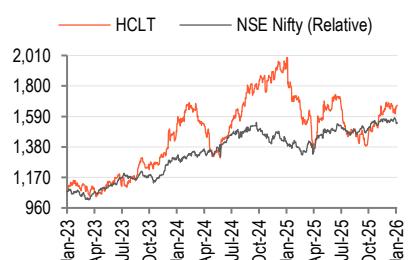
Ticker/Price	HCLT IN/Rs 1,668
Market cap	US\$ 50.0bn
Free float	39%
3M ADV	US\$ 42.1mn
52wk high/low	Rs 2,012/Rs 1,303
Promoter/FPI/DII	61%/17%/18%

Source: NSE | Price as of 12 Jan 2026

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	1,170,550	1,299,207	1,407,533
EBITDA (Rs mn)	255,050	271,161	294,721
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	173,910	169,072	194,062
Adj. EPS (Rs)	64.1	62.4	71.7
Consensus EPS (Rs)	64.1	64.3	72.3
Adj. ROAE (%)	25.2	23.7	26.3
Adj. P/E (x)	26.0	26.7	23.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	18.0	16.9	15.6
Adj. EPS growth (%)	10.8	(2.7)	14.9

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance

Source: NSE



CPI

12 January 2026

CPI continues to be favourable for monetary easing

CPI continued to provide comfort led by favourable food inflation. Even sequential data showed loss of momentum for vegetables. The recent trajectory of retail prices of Tomato is witnessing some upward correction. However, the gap between retail and wholesale prices of Tomato is higher than historical average which shows some passthrough of lower wholesale prices is yet to show its effect. Further Q4 is the harvesting period of majority of these vegetables. Thus, mandi arrivals are likely to be supportive. For core inflation, the usual gold-driven increase in inflation persisted. However, Core excl.

Dipanwita Mazumdar
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Gold and Pan Tobacco, is much lower at 2.6%. The coming quarter might witness some momentum in headline CPI due to the usual reversal of favourable statistical base factor. However, the new CPI series is expected to show more light regarding distribution of weights and inclusion of new parameters. For now, we see risks to inflation are on the downside and provides space for RBI for one more rate cut in the current cycle.

Food continued to support CPI

CPI continued to be below the lower band of RBI's target: CPI inflation reading came in at 1.3% in Dec'25 compared to 5.2% in Dec'24, on YoY basis (BoB est.: 1.4%). The below 2% headline print has continued for 6 months in a row despite slightly unfavourable base for the month. This is led by food driven deflation at -2.7% in Dec'25, albeit at a slower pace compared to Nov'25. Among major items, sharp pace of deflation continued for vegetables (-18.5% in Dec'25) and pulses (-15.1%). This is driven by better production data. CPI excl. vegetables and pulses is also lower at 3.6%. Notably, 5 out of 10 broad items of food are still tracking below 4% inflation. Some stickiness is noticed for eggs, meat and fish. For oils and fat, inflation is seeing some moderation at 6.8% in Dec'25 compared to 14.6% in Dec'24.

The sequential picture of food inflation also showed loss of momentum especially for cereals, vegetables and pulses. For Eggs and meat and fish, some increases were visible. For Eggs seasonal factor came into play. On a seasonally adjusted basis, consumer food price index has inched up by 1%, MoM, thus some seasonality has pulled down inflation for this month.

Going forward, the outlook for food inflation does not seem to be much of a worry. For TOP (Tomato, Onion and Potato), we have witnessed slight momentum in prices in Jan'26 with Tomato trajectory witnessing upward correction. However, potato and onion prices have remained supportive which is likely to pull down the overall TOP trajectory.



CEMENT

Q3FY26 Preview

12 January 2026

GST rate cut impact minimal; Demand picks up at the fag-end

- A healthy ~16% (coverage universe) volume pick-up YoY despite late monsoon impact, driven by pick up in demand in the second half of Q3
- Cement prices in the non-trade segment fell more than the GST rate cut impact due to aggressive volume push by companies in few pockets
- Avg EBITDA margin (cement coverage) estimated at ~15%, up by ~44 bps YoY (-70bps QoQ), average EBITDA/t at ~Rs 817

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Quarter with GST rate cut, demand pick up late in Q3: Cement demand was a mixed bag in Q3FY26 at ~16% gain YoY, as pick up comes towards the last 4-6 weeks of the quarter. Demand revival in Q3FY26 was impacted in many pockets due to extended monsoons reflected in the ~12% QoQ jump in volume (our coverage universe). However, states like Bihar (pre-election demand), West Bengal, Gujarat and Maharashtra were the outliers. Healthy monsoon helped improve sentiments in the rural segment, and infrastructure activity picked up helping urban demand.

Price stays listless in Q3: Prices stayed range-bound and stayed listless YoY, helped by the revival in Q3 towards the end. The YoY pricing for our coverage universe improved by ~1% as prices stayed soft initially (steady in trade segment) but reversed towards the end of Q3. Prices fell 3% QoQ owing to the extended cuts to chase volume. Concerns were about the demand staying listless despite price decline though the trend reversed at the end of Q3 with healthy demand pick up.

Margins improve YoY as cost structure helps: Realisations of our coverage companies improved by an average of ~1% YoY (down ~3% QoQ). With limited negative cost headwinds offset by operating leverage benefits, margin profile improved to 15.3% in the new regime quarter post GST rate cut announcement (fell by ~70bps QoQ). Efficiently driven companies like UTCEM, STRCEM, and SRCM outperformed the industry while ACC, Nuvoco and JK Lakshmi were below par.

EBITDA/t averages at ~Rs820/tn: We estimate EBITDA/t at Rs 817/tn, recovering from a low base YoY, on better pricing and limited cost headwinds. Better efficiencies due to alternate fuel usage, helped recovery. EBITDA/t improvement was healthy on a weak base YoY. UTCEM, SRCM and STRCEM stayed above industry average, but ACC and TRCL were below average.

No major change in stance: We continue to be positive on UTCEM and STRCEM (BUY) and assign SELL rating on JKLC, DALBHARA and TRCL.



CONSUMER STAPLES

Q3FY26 Preview

12 January 2026

GST-led demand revival

- GST rate cuts are expected to improve affordability in FY26, aiding volume recovery, particularly in mass and price-sensitive segments
- Margins are likely to expand gradually, aided by operating leverage and soft input costs, supporting steady profitability improvement
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FMCG – Recovery building up

GST cuts across the key FMCG categories are expected to emerge as a significant growth catalyst in FY26. Although the reduction in GST rates from 18% to 5% was implemented in Sept'25, the benefit reached end-consumers with a lag given the higher-priced inventory in trade channels. Consequently, demand impact is likely to be visible from the Dec'25 quarter and extend through FY26. Improved affordability should support premiumisation, accelerate the uptake of price-point packs, as also drive a gradual shift from unorganised to branded products since relative price gaps compress post-GST.

Earnings downgrade cycle behind

Following an extended period of earnings downgrades, driven by volume deceleration and margin pressures, outlook for consumer staples is stabilising. Several large FMCG companies saw estimate cuts through 2HFY25 and 1HFY26, reflecting weak seasonal demand and adverse weather conditions that impacted categories such as RTD beverages and soaps. With these transitory headwinds largely abating, we believe downgrade cycle is behind us, paving the way for stronger EPS growth. Additionally, demand recovery in summer-linked categories appears well-positioned due to a favourable base, as an above-normal monsoon in 2025 curtailed peak summer consumption for products such as RTD beverages, personal care and paints. Assuming normal weather conditions in 2026, these categories could witness a sharp rebound in volumes.



PHARMACEUTICALS

Q3FY26 Preview

12 January 2026

Another flat quarter is expected

- **Sales/EBITDA/APAT for our coverage companies to grow by 7.9%/1.9%/-4.6% respectively. EBITDA margin to stay flat at 24.7%**
- **Domestic sales growth of 9.4%, driven by price hike and new launches. US to grow marginally at 2.8% given no Revlimid sales in 3QFY26**
- **CDMO companies' sales to rise 11% YoY on stable API prices. SUN, LPC & BOOT remain our top picks**

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Flattish 3QFY26: We expect our coverage companies to report flat growth where sales is likely to grow by 7.9% YoY and -1.6% QoQ to Rs 623bn. EBITDA to grow by 1.9% YoY and -4.6% QoQ, driven by lower product mix with no Revlimid contribution for most of the companies. Subsequently, PAT is expected to decline by 4.6% YoY and -4.9 % QoQ, given that most companies have exhausted PLI benefits, resulting in normalized Other income. From our coverage companies, we expect SENORES Pharma to report the highest sales growth of 60% YoY, followed by 18% YoY growth in Divi's.

Domestic sales to continue growing above the IPM: Domestic sales for our coverage companies increased 9.4% YoY to Rs 188 bn, driven by price hike, new product launches, and better MR productivity. From our coverage companies, Dr.Reddy's is expected to report the highest growth — 13% YoY; followed by SUN that is expected to report 12% YoY growth.

No Revlimid contribution to drag US sales - From our coverage companies, the US region is likely to report 2.8% YoY growth to Rs 169 bn. The muted growth is due to Revlimid in the base for many companies like Sun, Cipla, Dr.Reddy's & Aurobindo where each of them are likely to report growth of 3%, -5%, -15% and 4% respectively. For non-Revlimid participating companies, the highest growth is likely from Ajanta (30% YoY), followed by 25% YoY growth in Alkem and 24% YoY growth in Lupin amidst LoE of 180 days for Tolvaptan in Nov'25.

Margins expected to remain flat: From our coverage companies, EBITDA Margin is expected to decline by 110 bps YoY and 79 bps increase QoQ to 24.7%. The flattish margin can be attributed to lower product mix, impacted by no meaningful contribution of gRevlimid (high margin product) during the quarter, which would be offset by R&D cost rationalisation. From our coverage companies, Cohance margins are likely to be lowest (16%), due to lack of incremental sales and deferment of ADC product to FY27, followed by 551 bps YoY reduction in DR. Reddy's to 22% impacted due to Revlimid in the base.



REAL ESTATE

Q3FY26 Preview

12 January 2026

Strong demand for REIT assets to drive rents and occupancy

- Leasing by GCCs and the preference for Grade A office assets made for a structurally strong environment for demand in REIT assets
- We expect occupancy and in-place rents to improve (+371bps and +4.10% YoY, respectively) as demand continues to outpace supply
- Improved occupancy, higher in-place rents and increased area under REIT management to drive DPU growth of ~+ 9.9 YoY and ~+0.9% QoQ

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Over 3Q26, ~22.2msf of office space was absorbed (~+15% QoQ and flat YoY), led by leasing activity in BLR (24%), MUM (22%) and Delhi NCR (18%). Supply continued to lag demand despite a pick-up in pace, as ~16.6msf was delivered (~+10% QoQ and ~+3% YoY), concentrated (63%) mostly in BLR and HYD. Leasing in Grade A office assets accounted for the majority (~90%) of the office space leased as occupiers prioritise workplace design, efficiency and sustainability standards. We believe that **leasing by GCCs (~38% of space leased)** and '**flight-to-quality**' make for a structurally strong environment for demand to consolidate into space in REIT managed properties.

As demand continues to exceed supply, we **expect occupancy and in-place rents to improve (+371bps and +4.10% YoY, respectively)**. We believe MINDSPACE will improve occupancy (+460bps YoY) and in-place rents (+6.65% YoY) the most, driven by efficient management of leasable area and the high demand for space in its assets.

REITs under our coverage **added ~8.75msf of acquired assets into their portfolio**. As most of these assets were acquired towards the end of 3Q26, we expect limited incremental NOI to flow through during the quarter. However, **BIRET stands to gain the most having announced the biggest acquisition** of an asset (7.7msf in BLR) with higher committed occupancy (94%) and in-place rents (Rs 102psf/m) vs. their existing portfolio (90% and Rs 98psf/m).

~Rs 35,000mn of equity capital and ~Rs 43,000mn of debt capital was raised over 3Q26 by REITs under our coverage. We believe that REITs are likely to report marginally lower avg. cost of debt despite persistent high debt yields (benefit from AAA credit rating), and expect BIRET to benefit the most from lower cost of debt (~88% of loans linked to repo-rate).

We continue to believe that **REITs' ability to expand leasable area remains key to driving DPU growth as portfolio occupancies approach ~90%** and expect average DPU growth of ~+9.9 YoY and ~+0.9% QoQ.



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SELL – Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

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