

## FIRST LIGHT

### RESEARCH

#### BOB ECONOMICS RESEARCH | CPI

Food inflation; still overpowering

#### BOB ECONOMICS RESEARCH | FPI DEBT FLOWS

A likely surge in FPI Flow (Debt)

#### ABB INDIA | TARGET: Rs 7,600 | +6% | HOLD

Margins swell; outlook strong

#### TVS MOTOR | TARGET: Rs 2,382 | +15% | BUY

Cruising on the right track; maintain BUY

#### FINOLEX INDUSTRIES | TARGET: Rs 265 | -2% | HOLD

Broadly in-line Q4FY24; positive outlook

#### SYRMA SGS | TARGET: Rs 420 | +7% | HOLD

Strong topline, but margins remain subpar

#### Daily macro indicators

Indicator	09-May	10-May	Chg (%)
US 10Y yield (%)	4.45	4.50	4bps
India 10Y yield (%)	7.13	7.13	0bps
USD/INR	83.51	83.50	0.0
Brent Crude (US\$/bbl)	83.9	82.8	(1.3)
Dow	39,388	39,513	0.3
Hang Seng	18,538	18,964	2.3
Sensex	72,404	72,664	0.4
India FII (US\$ mn)	08-May	09-May	Chg (\$ mn)
FII-D	(63.8)	24.3	88.1
FII-E	(639.0)	(798.8)	(159.8)

Source: Bank of Baroda Economics Research

### SUMMARY

#### INDIA ECONOMICS: CPI

CPI print came in slightly higher than our estimate at 4.8% (BoB estimate: 4.7%). Food inflation continued to pose considerable risk with sequential momentum visible across 8 out of 20 broad categories of food. Going forward, we expect food inflation to remain above 7% in Q1FY25. The upside risk emanates from spillover from higher global food prices (cereals, meat, oilseeds), lower reservoir levels and uneven distribution of rainfall. Core is also exhibiting some buildup on a sequential basis. Further, with India's durable growth picture, correction in core inflation cannot be ruled out. A delay in the rate cut cycle by the Fed might further weigh on the dollar and push prices of other commodities higher, which might further impinge on core inflation indirectly.

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

**BOBCAPS Research**  
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## INDIA ECONOMICS: FPI DEBT FLOWS

The inclusion of Indian government bonds in the Bloomberg and JP Morgan global bond indices has excellent implications for Indian market and the economy as a whole, raising its standing amongst its global peers. The optimism surrounding growing prospects of economy, coupled with lower inflation, stable currency and stability in reforms remains favorable and reflects optimism towards India's growth potential. This serves as a strong background for potential investors and opens new sources of investment avenues for domestic capital, given there is availability of funds. This is touted to be the shining moment for Indian economy.

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

## ABB INDIA

- Strong topline growth of 27.8% with gross margin above 40% after 6 years; EBITDA margin expands 650bps YoY to 18.3% in Q1
- Order inflows stand strong in Q1 at Rs 36.1bn with backlog of Rs 89.3bn; base orders grew 3%; large orders at Rs 3.7bn in Q1
- We raise CY24E/CY25E EPS by 11%/25% to bake in the strong quarter and outlook; raise target P/E to 80x with a revised TP of Rs 7,600

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

## TVS MOTOR

- ICE 2-wheeler volume grew 18% YoY, supporting 24% revenue growth in Q4. FY24 growth was 19% YoY vs. industry's 13%
- Steady gains in EBITDA margin to 11.3% vs 10.6% YoY, flat QoQ; softening commodity cost aids gross margin to 27.2% (+180bps YoY)
- Maintain BUY with new TP of Rs 2,382 (vs. Rs 2,242) as we raise our target P/E to 30x (vs. 28x) given healthy structural gains in next 2 years

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

## FINOLEX INDUSTRIES

- Strong pipe performance in Q4FY24, driven by healthy volume growth of 23% YoY as well as sharp margin improvement
- Company maintains positive outlook for pipe segment on healthy demand environment and improving product mix
- Maintain HOLD on weak return ratios and expensive valuations; raise TP by 15% to Rs 265 on earnings upgrade and valuation roll forward

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

**SYRMA SGS**

- Robust topline growth in Q4, but EBITDA margin dipped due to product mix
- FY25 revenue growth guidance remains unchanged, new capacities poised to drive growth
- We trim our FY25E/FY26E EPS by 15%/12% and value stock at 30x (vs. 38x). We roll over valuations and cut TP to Rs 420 (vs. Rs 550). HOLD

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

## CPI

13 May 2024

**Food inflation; still overpowering**

CPI print came in slightly higher than our estimate at 4.8% (BoB estimate: 4.7%). Food inflation continued to pose considerable risk with sequential momentum visible across 8 out of 20 broad categories of food. Going forward, we expect food inflation to remain above 7% in Q1FY25. The upside risk emanates from spillover from higher global food prices (cereals, meat, oilseeds), lower reservoir levels and uneven distribution of rainfall. Core is also exhibiting some buildup on a sequential basis. Further, with India's durable growth picture, correction in core inflation cannot be ruled out. A delay in the rate cut cycle by the Fed might further weigh on the dollar and push prices of other commodities higher, which might further impinge on core inflation indirectly.

**Dipanwita Mazumdar**  
Economist

Thus, RBI's approach would be nimble balancing and counterbalancing the risks. We expect that the rate cut might be delayed from our earlier forecast of Aug'24. Our headline CPI forecast for FY25 stands at 4.5-5%. Thus, unless inflation is well aligned and anchored to the 4% target, RBI might be cautious in its rate approach.

**Food inflation continued to remain sticky:**

**CPI inflation came in slightly higher than our estimate:** CPI inflation came in at 4.8% in Apr'24, on YoY basis, higher than our estimate of 4.7%. Food inflation inched up to 8.7% in Apr'24 from 8.5% in Mar'24. Within food, 6 out of 12 broad categories have remained above 6% with inflation in vegetables and pulses remaining at double digit of 27.8% and 16.8% respectively in Apr'24. The sequential picture gives a better picture of the evolution of food inflation. Food inflation has risen by 0.7% in Apr'24 on MoM basis compared to 0.2% in Mar'24. On a seasonally adjusted basis, food inflation went up by 0.3%, so some of the upside rise was attributable to seasonal phenomenon as well. Pressure points were across the board ranging from cereals, meat and fish, oils and fats, fruits, vegetables, pulses, and sugar.

Going forward, the outlook of food inflation remains foggy. Spillover from higher global food prices, lower reservoir levels compared to last year (27% vis a vis 34%) and no sign of reversal in the trajectory of vegetable inflation pose considerable upside risk to inflation. Q1 generally has the effect of an elevated vegetable inflation (sequential momentum), as seen historically. Thus, we expect food to remain above 7% in Q1FY25 as well.



## FPI DEBT FLOWS

13 May 2024

### A likely surge in FPI Flow (Debt)

The inclusion of Indian government bonds in the Bloomberg and JP Morgan global bond indices has excellent implications for Indian market and the economy as a whole, raising its standing amongst its global peers. The optimism surrounding growing prospects of economy, coupled with lower inflation, stable currency and stability in reforms remains favorable and reflects optimism towards India's growth potential. This serves as a strong background for potential investors and opens new sources of investment avenues for domestic capital, given there is availability of funds. This is touted to be the shining moment for Indian economy.

Jahnavi Prabhakar  
Economist

Indian economy remains a favored place for investment as has been reflected by strong FPI flows in the past few months. After China and Brazil, India's government bond market is the third largest amongst emerging economies. The foreign ownership stands at a mere 2%, much lower when compared to other emerging economies. Back in Sep'23, it was announced that starting from 28 Jun 2024, JP Morgan will include India in its Government Bond Index-Emerging markets. The GBI EM GD (Global diversified Index) comprises of fund from across the globe with the AUM totaling to US\$ 213bn. India is assigned a weightage of total 10% in the index. With this weightage, India is expected to garner total inflows close to US\$ 30bn in FY25. There will be an investment in over 23 Indian government bonds with the notional value to the tune of US\$ 330bn. In addition to this, Indian securities are also expected to be included in the Bloomberg EM local currency government Index. The index could possibly include 34 Indian securities. This is likely to happen by Jan'25 with an initial weightage of 10%. With this, India's rupee will become the third largest currency, component wise after China's renminbi and South Korean won. Overall, we expect this will bring in combined (equity and debt) FII flow to the tune of US\$ 40-45bn.

Global market trends and macro updates have influenced the global movement of FPI flows. The news of inclusion of India in the government bond index has driven FII flows higher across segments including, in the debt segment. There has been a steady increase starting from Oct'23 (Fig1), with FII flows in the debt segment at US\$ 0.8bn and climbing to US\$ 2.7bn, highest level in over 5-years. Secondly, the sector wise data under the sovereign segment (Fig 2) has noticed a gradual increase in investment scaling as high as US\$ 29bn in Mar'24, signaling greater demand and sharp uptick since Oct'23 given the announcement of inclusion of India in the global bond indexes. This is based on the following factors:



**HOLD**  
 TP: Rs 7,600 | ▲ 6%

**ABB INDIA**

| Capital Goods

| 13 May 2024

**Margins swell; outlook strong**

- **Strong topline growth of 27.8% with gross margin above 40% after 6 years; EBITDA margin expands 650bps YoY to 18.3% in Q1**
- **Order inflows stand strong in Q1 at Rs 36.1bn with backlog of Rs 89.3bn; base orders grew 3%; large orders at Rs 3.7bn in Q1**
- **We raise CY24E/CY25E EPS by 11%/25% to bake in the strong quarter and outlook; raise target P/E to 80x with a revised TP of Rs 7,600**

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**Strong quarter across the board:** ABB posted strong topline growth of 27.8% YoY in Q1CY24 with aggregate revenues of Rs 30.8bn. This was driven by strong order conversion across all divisions. Exports contributed ~8% of revenues during the quarter. Direct sales contributed 59% and sales through partners 41%. Gross margin expanded 390bps YoY to 40.2% and EBITDA margin expanded 650bps YoY to 18.3%. Margins improved due to lower material costs, better operating leverage and cost optimisation. Adjusted PAT came in at Rs 4.6bn, +87.5% YoY. At the end of Q1CY24, ABB had a cash balance of Rs 50.4bn.

**Order inflow accelerates:** During the quarter, the company received orders amounting to Rs 36.1bn, +15.4% YoY, the highest ever in Q1 in the last five years. This resulted in a closing order book of Rs 89.3bn, +24.6% YoY. Base orders continued their momentum with 3% growth YoY to Rs 32.3bn, with large orders in the data centres business. Currently, 40% of the order book includes long-term projects, largely from the Railways and process automation. The quarter had a healthy mix of long and short cycle orders, with export orders growing 23% YoY.

**Energy efficiency to boost orders:** As energy efficiency norms tighten, ABB expects the use of IE3 (premium efficiency) and IE4 (super premium efficiency) power drives in motors to increase, and to bolster growth. Currently, 15-20% of motors in the industry use power drives, which management expects to increase as penetration of power drives rises.

**Strong outlook, valuations obstruct upside:** ABB gave a strong performance in Q1CY24, and we expect continued momentum going forward. We raise our CY24E/CY25E EPS by 11.5%/24.9% to bake in a good quarter and a strong outlook. We value the stock at a target P/E of 80x (70x earlier) – a 10% premium to its 5Y mean. Upon rolling over to Mar'26E, we raise our TP to Rs 7,600 (from Rs5,500). The stock has run up over 50% since the last quarterly earnings, and we maintain HOLD on limited upside.

**Key changes**

Target	Rating
▲	◀ ▶

Ticker/Price	ABB IN/Rs 7,178
Market cap	US\$ 18.5bn
Free float	25%
3M ADV	US\$ 39.2mn
52wk high/low	Rs 7,218/Rs 3,805
Promoter/FPI/DII	75%/4%/9%

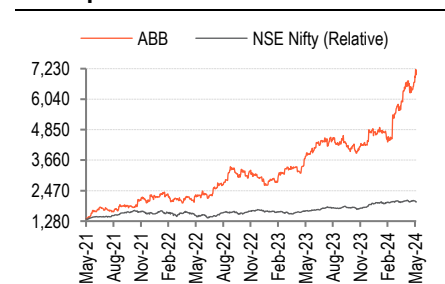
Source: NSE | Price as of 10 May 2024

**Key financials**

Y/E 31 Dec	CY23A	CY24E	CY25E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	1,04,465	1,37,272	1,47,113
EBITDA (Rs mn)	14,898	20,460	23,876
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	12,482	16,217	18,819
Adj. EPS (Rs)	58.9	76.5	88.8
Consensus EPS (Rs)	58.9	69.0	81.3
Adj. ROAE (%)	22.9	24.3	22.7
Adj. P/E (x)	121.9	93.8	80.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	102.1	74.3	63.7
Adj. EPS growth (%)	81.9	29.9	16.0

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

**Stock performance**



Source: NSE



**BUY**  
 TP: Rs 2,382 | ▲ 15%

**TVS MOTOR**

| Automobiles

| 13 May 2024

**Cruising on the right track; maintain BUY**

- ICE 2-wheeler volume grew 18% YoY, supporting 24% revenue growth in Q4. FY24 growth was 19% YoY vs. industry’s 13%
- Steady gains in EBITDA margin to 11.3% vs 10.6% YoY, flat QoQ; softening commodity cost aids gross margin to 27.2% (+180bps YoY)
- Maintain BUY with new TP of Rs 2,382 (vs. Rs 2,242) as we raise our target P/E to 30x (vs. 28x) given healthy structural gains in next 2 years

**Milind Raginwar**  
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**Revenue growth driven by healthy volume uptick:** TVSL’s Q4FY24 revenue grew 22% YoY (flat QoQ) to Rs 81.7bn, backed by volume growth of 22% YoY (-3% QoQ) to ~1.1mn units. Net realisation per vehicle (NRPV) remained flat YoY/+3% QoQ at Rs 76.8k due to better product mix. TVSL’s domestic ICE 2W volumes grew 18% YoY to ~750k units while exports grew by a healthy 47% YoY.

**Healthy margin gains helped by softening commodity cost:** Raw material costs as a percentage of sales dropped 180bps YoY to 72.8% in Q4 (~100bps QoQ fall) due to input cost decline. EBITDA grew 36% YoY (flat QoQ) to Rs 9.2bn and the margin improved 70bps (flat QoQ) to 11.3%. Adj. PAT climbed only 13% YoY (-18% QoQ) to Rs 4.9bn with a 6.7% net margin, impacted by other income loss (notional) of ~Rs 460mn incurred due to investment valuations.

**Steady revival in export demand:** 2W export sales grew strongly by 47% YoY /QoQ to ~236k units, above the industry. TVSL anticipates a positive momentum in the South-East Asian and LATAM markets. Recovery in African markets is only marginal and may be neutral for TVSL in the medium term.

**Estimates maintained:** Backed by a strong presence in the preferred high-end motorcycle segment, revival in key export markets and focused EV launch approach will help TVSL beat industry volume growth. Though raw material costs are inflating marginally the company’s premium focus will aid margins with pass through. We have factored the same into our FY25/FY26 earnings estimates and continue to maintain our earnings baking in a 3Y EBITDA/PAT CAGR of 28%/35%.

**TP raised; maintain BUY:** We estimate a healthy outlook for high-end products such as *Apache* and *Raider*, systematic EV launch plans, and medium-term benefits from investments in export markets. Factoring in the same, we revise our target P/E for the core business to 30x from 28x, a marginal premium to the stock’s long-term average. We arrive at a new SOTP-based TP of Rs 2,382 (earlier Rs 2,242) with the core business valued at Rs 2,349 and Rs 33/sh for TVS Credit, offering 14% upside potential. Maintain BUY. Slow recovery in export markets remains a key risk.

**Key changes**

Target	Rating
▲	◀ ▶

Ticker/Price	TVSL IN/Rs 2,069
Market cap	US\$ 12.0bn
Free float	48%
3M ADV	US\$ 27.1mn
52wk high/low	Rs 2,313/Rs 1,220
Promoter/FPI/DII	52%/13%/25%

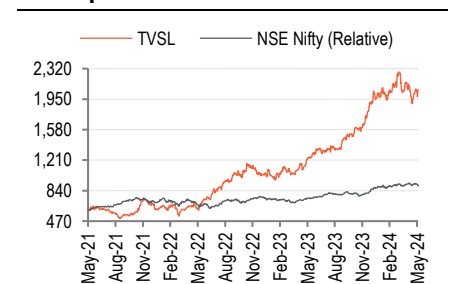
Source: NSE | Price as of 13 May 2024

**Key financials**

Y/E 31 Mar	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	3,17,764	3,62,497	4,29,846
EBITDA (Rs mn)	35,141	45,469	56,091
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	20,819	28,887	36,889
Adj. EPS (Rs)	43.8	60.8	77.6
Consensus EPS (Rs)	43.8	56.6	69.9
Adj. ROAE (%)	26.9	27.5	26.6
Adj. P/E (x)	47.2	34.0	26.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	28.0	21.6	17.5
Adj. EPS growth (%)	39.6	38.8	27.7

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research | P – Provisional

**Stock performance**



Source: NSE



**HOLD**  
 TP: Rs 265 | ▼ 2%

**FINOLEX INDUSTRIES**

Building Materials

13 May 2024

**Broadly in-line Q4FY24; positive outlook**

- Strong pipe performance in Q4FY24, driven by healthy volume growth of 23% YoY as well as sharp margin improvement
- Company maintains positive outlook for pipe segment on healthy demand environment and improving product mix
- Maintain HOLD on weak return ratios and expensive valuations; raise TP by 15% to Rs 265 on earnings upgrade and valuation roll forward

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**In-line quarter:** FNXP slightly beats our estimate for Q4FY24 (Revenue: +3.5%; EBITDA: +3.7%) as better-than-expected pipe sales volume (+23% YoY vs +15% estimate) and improved pipe EBITDA per unit (+16.8% YoY to Rs14.3/kg vs Rs12.0/kg estimate) more than offset the impact of lower-than-expected PVC resin segment EBITDA per unit (+24.3% QoQ to Rs9.4/kg vs Rs12.3/kg estimate). However, FNXP APAT came in line with our estimate due to higher-than-expected tax rate (+27.9% vs 25.2% estimate). Overall, FNXP revenue grew by 8.3% YoY, but EBITDA/APAT fell by 3.9%/1.4% YoY in Q4FY24.

**Key result highlights:** FNXP’s pipe volumes grew by 23% YoY in Q4FY24 driven by strong recovery in agri-pipe demand in Q4FY24. Despite rising competitive pressure in the sector and inferior product-mix (non-agri pipe share down 300 bps QoQ to 29%), FNXP pipe EBITDA per unit improved sharply by 34.5% QoQ to Rs14.3/kg in Q4FY24. PVC resin segment EBITDA per unit remained under pressure at Rs9.4/kg in Q4FY24 vs the historical average run rate of Rs15/kg due to weak global resin spread and dumping of Chinese PVC resin at a cheap rate.

**Positive outlook:** The company targets to grow its pipe volume at 10-15% rate over the next five years to be driven by high single-digit growth in agri pipe and high-teen growth in non-agri pipe. The company has maintained its pipe EBIT per unit guidance of Rs 10-12/kg for the near future and expects it to improve to >Rs 14/kg over the next 2-3 years on rising contribution of high margin non-agri pipe sales.

**Maintain HOLD; raise TP 15% to Rs 265:** We expect FNXP’s EPS to grow at 28% CAGR over FY24-FY26 due to a low base. However, we maintain our HOLD rating on the stock due to a weak returns profile amid poor capital allocation and expensive valuation (trades at 24.1x on 1Y forward P/E vs 5Y average of 19.0). We raise our TP to Rs 265 (from Rs230) due to earnings upgrade (+8.5%/+11.2% for FY25/FY26 based on strong Q4FY24 result) and roll forward our valuation from Sep’25 to Mar’26. Our target P/E remains unchanged at 22x on Mar’26E EPS.

**Key changes**

Target	Rating
▲	◀ ▶

Ticker/Price	FNXP IN/Rs 271
Market cap	US\$ 2.0bn
Free float	47%
3M ADV	US\$ 3.9mn
52wk high/low	Rs 288/Rs 163
Promoter/FPI/DII	52%/7%/12%

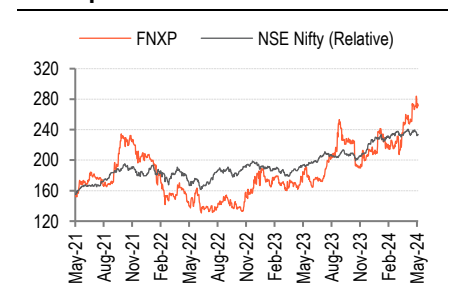
Source: NSE | Price as of 13 May 2024

**Key financials**

Y/E 31 Mar	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	43,174	47,008	54,074
EBITDA (Rs mn)	5,849	8,201	9,280
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	4,733	6,808	7,758
Adj. EPS (Rs)	7.7	11.0	12.5
Consensus EPS (Rs)	7.7	9.4	10.9
Adj. ROAE (%)	9.0	11.3	11.6
Adj. P/E (x)	35.4	24.6	21.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	31.3	22.3	20.0
Adj. EPS growth (%)	81.7	43.8	14.0

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

**Stock performance**



Source: NSE





**HOLD**  
 TP: Rs 420 | ▲ 7%

**SYRMA SGS**

| Consumer Durables

| 13 May 2024

**Strong topline, but margins remain subpar**

- Robust topline growth in Q4, but EBITDA margin dipped due to product mix
- FY25 revenue growth guidance remains unchanged, new capacities poised to drive growth
- We trim our FY25E/FY26E EPS by 15%/12% and value stock at 30x (vs. 38x). We roll over valuations and cut TP to Rs 420 (vs. Rs 550). HOLD

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**Topline strong; margin drag apparent:** Despite Syrma's topline growth jumping 67% YoY to reach Rs 11.3bn, EBITDA margin declined a notable 220bps YoY to 6.5%. This drop is primarily attributed to heightened raw material expenses and a substantial increase in revenue contribution from the telecom consumer segment, known for its lower-margin nature, as opposed to original design manufacturer (ODM), which held a larger share in the previous year. FY24 revenue was ~Rs 32bn, up 54%.

**Segments performance solid, Healthcare stands out:** The company's Auto vertical grew 47% YoY, while the Consumer segment surged by 93%. Industrials saw healthy growth of 39%, and IT and Railways increased by 5.2%. Healthcare surged 2.5x times. Syrma boasts a Rs 4.5bn order book, with a significant portion comprising projects in the consumer segment. Additionally, exports constitute 22-25% of the total order book.

**Guidance upheld:** Management reaffirmed its growth targets of 35-40% for both FY25 and FY26, while providing guidance for EBITDA margin of 7% for the current fiscal year. Margins will be subdued, especially given their significant dependence on the consumer segment, which traditionally operates with narrower profit margins. They have also articulated a strategy to reduce the overall share of the consumer segment in the topline, a move expected to yield improved margins post FY25.

**Maintain HOLD:** With the Consumer vertical being the largest contributor to the topline, Syrma is presently facing margin challenges due to alterations in its product mix. Management expects the share of ODM to remain subdued until FY25. To address this situation, we cut our FY25/FY26 EPS estimates by 15%/12% to reflect expected lower margins. Additionally, we have lowered our target P/E to 30x from 38x. We roll over valuations to Mar'26E, with a new price target of Rs 420 (previously Rs 550).

**Key changes**

Target	Rating
▼	◀ ▶

Ticker/Price	SYRMA IN/Rs 392
Market cap	US\$ 844.3mn
Free float	53%
3M ADV	US\$ 3.7mn
52wk high/low	Rs 705/Rs 302
Promoter/FPI/DII	47%/5%/9%

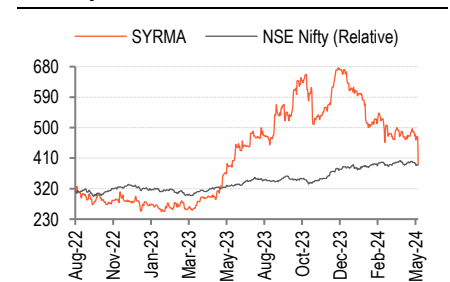
Source: NSE | Price as of 13 May 2024

**Key financials**

Y/E 31 Mar	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	31,538	42,501	57,406
EBITDA (Rs mn)	1,986	2,991	4,154
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	1,087	1,773	2,452
Adj. EPS (Rs)	6.1	10.0	13.9
Consensus EPS (Rs)	6.1	11.0	15.0
Adj. ROAE (%)	6.9	10.5	13.1
Adj. P/E (x)	63.8	39.1	28.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	34.9	23.2	16.7
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(8.9)	63.1	38.3

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research | P – Provisional

**Stock performance**



Source: NSE



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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.

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