Quarterly Update/Target price change

Varun Beverages



Outlook sturdy

India | FMCG

Strong growth in international markets drives Q1 volumes

In Q1CY24, Varun Beverages' (VBL IN) net sales grew 10.9% YoY (versus our estimate of 6% growth) as volume surged 7.2% YoY, led by strong volume growth in the international markets (up 21.9% YoY). Despite the 17-day delay in the Holi festival affecting the seasonality cycle, India business reported a 4.4% volume growth in Q1. Overall, realization per case rose by 3.5% YoY to INR 179.7, mainly due to better product mix in India and higher contribution from the international markets, which typically yield higher realizations compared with India. VBL indicated a better Q2 due to favorable weather and sales shift (from Q1) owing to delayed Holi and early Ramadan.

Capacity expansion and new markets to bolster growth

VBL commercialized three new greenfield plants in India (in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha), thus boosting overall capacity by 45% since CY22, crucial for meeting peak summer demand. Also, growth levers include: 1. acquisition of the South Africa market, ripe with potential due to regional brand dominance, 2. venturing into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), unoccupied by Pepsi, and 3. securing a license to produce *Cheetos* in Morocco, starting May '25, complementing its existing snacks distribution agreement.

Favorable input pricing improved margins

In Q1, EBITDA margin improved 240bps YoY to 22.9% (versus our estimate of 21.3%), primarily due to softening of PET chips prices and VBL's focus on reducing sugar content (46% of total volume comes from low/no sugar products), partly offset by increase in other expenses associated with the acquisition of new territories and commissioning of new plants. The management maintained its conservative EBITDA margin guidance of 21-22% for FY25.

Valuation: reiterate Accumulate with higher TP of INR 1,590

We up CY24E/25E earnings estimates 6.6%/8.6% to factor in higher revenue growth from new market expansion and improved volume growth outlook for India business. Reiterate **Accumulate** with a higher TP of INR 1,590 from INR 1,463, as we assign 55x (unchanged) CY25E EPS. Key downside risk is lower-than-estimated volume growth.

Rating: Accumulate

Target Price: INR 1,590

Upside: 8%

CMP: INR 1,477 (as on 13 May 2024)

Key data*	
Bloomberg / Reuters Code	VBL IN/VARB.BO
Current /Dil. Shares O/S (mn)	1299/1299
Mkt Cap (INR bn/USD mn)	1,920/22,988
Daily Vol. (3M NSE Avg.)	2,056,878
Face Value (INR)	5

1 USD = INR 83.5

Note: pricing as on 13 May 2024; Source: Bloomberg

Price & Vol	ume		
1,800		ı	ſ ¹⁵
1,300 -		Alabama lang	- 10
800	~~~~~		- 5
300			0
May-23	Sep-23	Jan-24	May-24
Vol. in	mn (RHS) —	— Varun Bev	erages (LHS)

Source: Bloomberg

Shareholding (%)	Q2CY23 C	23CY23 C	24CY23 C	1CY24
Promoter	63.6	63.1	63.1	62.9
Institutional Investors	29.9	30.9	30.2	29.9
Other Investors	2.0	1.7	2.1	2.2
General Public	4.5	4.3	4.7	5.0
Source: BSE				

Price performance (%)	3M	6M	12M
Nifty	1.7	13.7	20.7
Varun Beverages	5.9	46.4	89.9

Source: Bloomberg

Y/E March (INR mn)	Q1CY24	Q1CY23	YoY (%)	Q4CY23	QoQ (%)	Q1CY24E	Variance (%)
Net Sales	43,173	38,930	10.9	26,677	61.8	41,368	4.4
Operating Expenses	33,286	30,949	7.5	22,494	48.0	32,561	2.2
% of Sales	77.1	79.5		84.3		78.7	
EBITDA	9,888	7,980	23.9	4,183	136.4	8,808	12.3
EBITDA Margins (%)	22.9	20.5		15.7		21.3	
Other Income	84	101	(17.6)	91	(8.4)	80	4.4
Interest	937	626	, ,	737	, ,	780	
Depreciation	1,875	1,722		1,660	13.0	1,857	1.0
PBT	7,159	5,734	24.9	1,878	281.3	6,251	14.5
Tax	1,678	1,348	24.5	442	279.4	1,529	9.7
Effective Tax Rate(%)	23.4	23.5		23.5		24.5	
Minority Interest	109	95.3		115.8		100.0	
Reported PAT	5,373	4,291	25.2	1,320	307.1	4,622	16.2
Adjusted PAT	5,373	4,291	25.2	1,320	307.1	4,622	16.2
NPM (%)	12.4	11.0		4.9		11.2	

YE	Revenue	YoY	EBITDA	EBITDA	Adj PAT	YoY	Fully DEPS	RoE	RoCE	P/E	EV/EBITDA
December	(INR mn)	(%)	(INR mn)	margin (%)	(INŘ mn)	(%)	(INR)	(%)	(%)	(x)	(x)
CY22	131,731	49.3	27,881	21.2	14,974	115.8	11.5	32.6	25.8	128.2	70.1
CY23	160,426	21.8	36,095	22.5	20,559	37.3	15.8	34.2	27.5	93.4	54.5
CY24E	219,793	37.0	49,583	22.6	29,071	41.4	22.4	34.5	27.3	66.1	39.5
CY25E	274,845	25.0	62,044	22.6	37,540	29.1	28.9	32.9	27.0	51.2	31.2

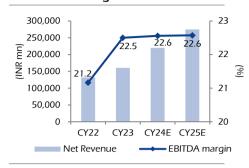


Financials (YE Dec)

Financials (YE Dec)				
Income statement (INR mn)	CY22	CY23	CY24E	CY25E
Net Revenue	131,731	160,426	219,793	274,845
EBITDA	27,881	36,095	49,583	62,044
Less: Depreciation & Amortisation	6,172	6,809	8,804	10,412
EBIT	21,709	29,286	40,779	51,632
Less: Interest Expense	1,861	2,681	3,584	3,396
Add: Other Income	388	794	700	600
PBT	20,236	27,398	37,894	48,836
Less Taxes	4,735	6,375	8,824	11,296
Reported PAT	15,501	21,023	29,071	37,540
Minority Interest	527	464	-	-
Reported PAT after Minority Interest	14,974	20,559	29,071	37,540
Adjusted PAT	14,974	20,559	29,071	37,540
Balance Sheet (INR mn)	CY22	CY23	CY24E	CY25E
Share capital	6,496	6,496	6,496	6,496
Reserves	44,528	62,869	92,743	122,487
Minority Interests	1,131	1,482	1,482	1,482
Borrowings	36,948	51,944	65,944	56,944
Deferred Tax (Net)	3,368	3,430	11,483	21,323
Total Liabilities	92,471	126,221	178,148	208,733
Gross Block	104,172	125,750	173,950	184,950
Less: Accumulated depreciation	35,092	41,901	50,705	61,117
Net Block	69,080	83,849	123,245	123,833
Capital work in progress	6,066	19,222	9,462	9,462
Goodwill	242	242	242	242
Investments	0	211	211	211
Cash	2,853	4,599	25,948	40,322
Net working capital	14,230	18,097	19,038	34,661
Total Assets	92,471	126,221	178,148	208,733
Cash flow statement (INR mn)	CY22	CY23	CY24E	CY25E
Operating cash flow	13,949	23,501	36,934	32,329
Less: Capex	13,487	34,734	38,440	11,000
Free cash flow to firm	463	(11,233)	(1,506)	21,329
Investing cash flow	(13,487)	(34,945)	(38,440)	(11,000)
3				
FINALICING CASH HOW	. ,		. ,	. ,
Financing cash flow Net change in cash	(976)	13,190	22,856	(6,955)
Net change in cash	(976) (514)	13,190 1,746	22,856 21,350	(6,955) 14,374
Net change in cash Ratio Analysis	(976)	13,190	22,856	(6,955)
Net change in cash Ratio Analysis Income statement Ratios (%)	(976) (514)	13,190 1,746	22,856 21,350	(6,955) 14,374
Net change in cash Ratio Analysis Income statement Ratios (%) Revenue growth	(976) (514) CY22	13,190 1,746 CY23	22,856 21,350 CY24E	(6,955) 14,374 CY25E
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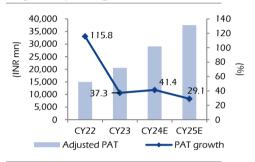
Note: pricing as on 13 May 2024; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Revenue & margin trend



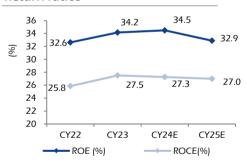
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Adjusted profit growth trend



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Return ratios



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

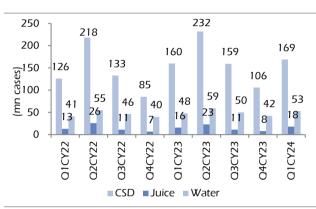


Exhibit 1: Key ratios

YE December (%)	Q1CY24	Q1CY23	YoY bps chg	Q4CY23	QoQ bps chg	Q1CY24E	bps variance
Raw material cost	43.7	47.6	(385)	43.4	35	45.1	(139)
Staff costs	9.1	8.7	41	13.9	(480)	9.5	(33)
Other expenses	24.3	23.2	104	27.0	(278)	24.1	11
Effective tax rate	23.4	23.5	(8)	23.5	(11)	24.5	(102)
Gross margin	56.3	52.4	385	56.6	(35)	54.9	139
EBITDA margin	22.9	20.5	240	15.7	722	21.3	161
NPM	12.4	11.0	142	4.9	750	11.2	127

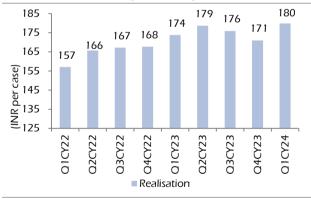
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Exhibit 2: Contribution of non-CSD portfolio up



Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

Exhibit 4: Realization per case up 3.5% in Q1CY24



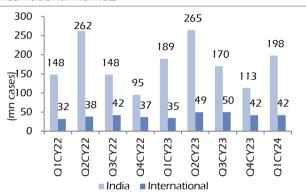
Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

Exhibit 6: VBL trading above +1STD five-year average P/E of 39x



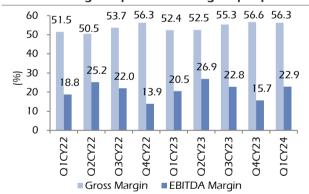
Source: Bloomberg, Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Exhibit 3: Volume growth led by robust growth in international markets



Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

Exhibit 5: Margin expands on benign input prices



Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

Varun Beverages



Exhibit 7: Change in estimates

(INID mon)	Old		New		(%) change	
(INR mn)	CY24E	CY25E	CY24E	CY25E	CY24E	CY25E
Revenue	207,621	256,145	219,793	274,845	5.9	7.3
EBITDA	46,927	57,506	49,583	62,044	5.7	7.9
EBITDA (%)	22.6	22.5	22.6	22.6	(4.3)	12.4
PAT	27,271	34,565	29,071	37,540	6.6	8.6
EPS (INR)	21.0	26.6	22.4	28.9	6.6	8.6
TP (INR)		1,463		1,590		9

Source: Elara Securities Estimate



Coverage History



	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
1	9-Dec-2022	Accumulate	INR 1,550	INR 1,410
2	6-Feb-2023	Buy	INR 1,550	INR 1,222
3	2-May-2023	Buy	INR 1,670	INR 1,415
	15-Jun-2023*	Buy	INR 835*	INR 827*
4	3-Aug-2023	Accumulate	INR 930	INR 823
5	6-Nov-2023	Accumulate	INR 1,065	INR 946
6	4-Dec-2023	Accumulate	INR 1,180	INR 1,070
7	5-Feb-2024	Accumulate	INR 1,463	INR 1,303
8	13-May-2024	Accumulate	INR 1,590	INR 1,477

^{*}stock split 10:5

Guide to Research Rating

SELL	Absolute Return < -5%
REDUCE	Absolute Return -5% to +5%
ACCUMULATE	Absolute Return +5% to +20%
BUY	Absolute Return >+20%

Elara Securities (India) Private Limited



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