Premiumization continues

Operating performance along expected lines

Birla Corporation (BCORP IN) net sales grew ~8% YoY and ~15% QoQ to ~INR 26bn, EBITDA increased ~72% YoY and ~25% QoQ to ~INR 4.7bn. Net sales and EBITDA were largely in line with our estimates of ~INR 26.0bn and ~INR 4.8bn, respectively. Adjusted PAT surged ~161% YoY and ~73% QoQ to ~INR 1.9bn.

Cement EBITDA per tonne up ~57% YoY and ~7% QoQ

Cement sales volume improved ~9% YoY and ~15% QoQ to 4.85mn tonne, due to ramp-up of the Maharashtra plant. Cement realization dipped ~2% YoY and QoQ each to INR 5,178/tonne. Realization fall for BCORP was lower than other cement firms as it was sold out at some of its plants and increased premiumization. Blended operating cost fell ~9% YoY and ~2% QoQ to INR 4,503/tonne. The rising share of green power, lower fuel prices, coupled with savings from increased operational efficiency under the Project Shikhar and Project Unnati, were key cost-saving triggers. As per management, BCORP achieved gross cost savings of INR 660mn and INR 1bn, respectively, through Project Shikhar and Project Unnati in FY24. Cement EBITDA/tonne rose ~57% YoY and ~7% QoQ to INR 964.

Announces new expansion project of 1.4mn tonne

In line with its vison to reach 25mn tonne by FY27, BCORP has announced a Brownfield expansion of 1.4mn tonne grinding capacity at its Kundanganj unit in Uttar Pradesh. Total capex for the project will be ~INR 4.25bn and capacity is likely to be operational within two years.

Valuation: reiterate Accumulate with a higher TP of INR 1,824

We believe further ramp-up of Maharashtra-based Mukutban operations bodes well for near-term volume growth whereas gradual completion of ongoing growth capex is likely to support volume growth. Also, lower fuel prices, rise in share of renewables power, increased production from captive coal mines and other cost savings initiatives bode well for margin. Thus, we reiterate Accumulate. We increase our EBITDA ~1% each for FY25E and FY26E and rollover to March 2026E from December 2025E. Thus, we increase our TP to INR 1,824 from INR 1,740 based on 8x (unchanged) March 2026E EV/EBITDA.



Rating: Accumulate

Target Price: INR 1,824 Upside: 18%

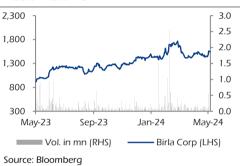
CMP: INR 1,544 (as on 6 May 2024)

Kev data*

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Bloomberg /Reuters Code	BCORP IN/BRLC.BO
Current / Dil. Shares O/S (mn)	77/77
Mkt Cap (INR bn/USD mn)	119/1,424
Daily Vol. (3M NSE Avg.)	200,177
Face Value (INR)	10
1 USD = INR 83.5	

Note: *as on 6 May 2024; Source: Bloomberg

Price & Volume



Shareholding (%)	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24
Promoter	62.9	62.9	62.9	62.9
Institutional Investors	23.0	22.6	22.6	22.4
Other Investors	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.6
General Public	10.2	10.6	10.8	11.1
Source: BSE				
Price performance	(%)	ЗM	6M	12M
Nifty		2.3	15.6	24.2
Birla Corporation		1.7	17.8	57.6
Prism Johnson		(8.9)	7.1	28.3
Heidelberg Cement		(12.6)	4.6	15.8
Source: Bloomberg				

YE March (INR mn)		Q4FY24	Q4FY23	Y	′oY (%)	Q3FY24	QoQ (%)	Q4	1FY24E	Variance (%)
Net Sale			26,564	24,626		7.9	23,120	14.9		26,599	(0.1)
Operating	Expenses		21,840	21,882		(0.2)	19,335	13.0		21,846	(0.0)
EBITDA			4,724	2,743		72.2	3,785	24.8		4,753	(0.6)
EBITDA Ma	argins (%)		17.8	11.1			16.4			17.9	
Other Inco	me		257	491		(47.7)	163	57.5		200	28.7
Interest			824	887		(7.2)	965	(14.7)		975	(15.5)
Depreciatio	on		1,497	1,401		6.9	1,448	3.4		1,463	2.3
PBT			2,731	1,129		141.8	1,535	77.9		2,515	8.6
Tax			797	280		184.9	443	79.8		805	(0.9)
Adjusted P	AT		1,884	721		161.2	1,091	72.6		1,710	10.2
Reported P	PAT		1,933	850		127.6	1,091	77.1		1,710	13.1
Adj. NPM (%)		7.1	2.9			4.7			6.4	
Key fin	ancials										
YE	Revenue	YoY	EBITDA	EBITDA	Adj PAT	YoY	Fully DEPS	RoE	P/E	EV/ton	EV/EBITDA
March	(INR mn)	(%)	(INR mn)	margin (%)	(INR mn)	(%)	(INR)	(%)	(x)	(ÚSD)	(x)
FY23	85,080	16.7	7,720	9.1	452	(89.3)	5.9	0.8	263.3	97	20.2
FY24P	95,039	11.7	14,376	15.1	4,158	820.9	54.0	6.6	28.6	93	10.4
FY25E	101,206	6.5	16,497	16.3	5,905	42.0	76.7	8.7	20.1	92	8.9

6.5 5.905 76.7 115.8 FY25E 101.206 16.497 16.3 42.0 7.9 8,920 FY26E 109,200 20,341 18.6 51.1

Note: pricing as on 6 May 2024; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

12.2

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Elara Securities (India) Private Limited

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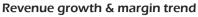
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6.9

Financials (YE March)

	')			
Income Statement (INR mn)	FY23	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E
Net Revenue	85,080	95,039	101,206	109,200
Operating profit	5,977	12,788	15,385	18,966
Add:- Other operating Income	1,743	1,589	1,112	1,375
EBITDA	7,720	14,376	16,497	20,341
Add:- Other Income	1,131	856	860	864
Less :- Depreciation & Amortization	5,099	5,783	5,915	6,095
EBIT	3,752	9,449	11,441	15,110
Less:- Interest Expenses	3,387	3,717	3,568	3,216
PBT	431	5,799	7,873	11,894
Less :- Taxes	26	1,594	1,968	2,973
Reported PAT	405	4,206	5,905	8,920
Reported PAT after Minority Interest	405	4,206	5,905	8,920
Adjusted PAT	452	4,158	5,905	8,920
Balance Sheet (INR mn)	FY23	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E
Share Capital	770	770	770	770
Reserves	59,038	65,968	68,186	76,182
Minority Interest	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Borrowings	43,497	37,697	34,672	29,647
Deferred Tax (Net)	9,712	11,042	10,932	10,822
Other liabilities	9,477	9,545	9,640	9,737
Total Liabilities	122,494	125,022	124,201	127,159
Gross Block	125,197	130,455	132,455	138,455
Less:- Accumulated Depreciation	26,777	32,560	38,475	44,571
Net Block	98,421	97,895	93,980	93,884
Add:- Capital work in progress	3,573	4,802	10,802	9,802
Non-current investments	4,116	7,035	7,035	7,035
Net Working Capital	5,223	3,038	1,943	4,540
Cash & current investments	6,750	7,439	5,984	7,396
Other assets Total Assets	4,411	4,813	4,457	4,502
Cash Flow Statement (INR mn)	122,494 FY23	125,022 FY24P	124,201 FY25E	127,159 FY26E
Operating profit before working				
capital changes	7,774	14,173	14,418	17,258
Add/Less : Working Capital Changes	280	2,021	1,095	(2,597)
Operating Cash Flow	8,055	16,195	15,513	14,661
Less:- Capex	(6,263)	(5,255)	(8,000)	(5,000)
Free Cash Flow	1,791	10,939	7,513	9,661
Financing Cash Flow	(3,183)	(9,691)	(10,184)	(9,069)
Investing Cash Flow	2,613	(1,745)	1,216	819
Net change in Cash	1,221	(497)	(1,455)	1,412
Ratio Analysis	FY23	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E
Income Statement Ratios (%) Revenue Growth	1/7	11.7		7.0
	16.7	86.2	6.5	7.9 כככ
EBITDA Growth	(30.5) (89.3)		14.8 42.0	23.3
Adj. PAT Growth EBITDA Margin			42.0	51.1
	. ,	820.9		10 4
	9.1	15.1	16.3	18.6
Adj. Net Margin	. ,			18.6 8.2
Adj. Net Margin Return & Liquidity Ratios	9.1 0.5	15.1 4.4	16.3 5.8	8.2
Adj. Net Margin Return & Liquidity Ratios Net Debt/Equity (x)	9.1 0.5 0.6	15.1 4.4 0.5	16.3 5.8 0.4	8.2 0.3
Adj. Net Margin Return & Liquidity Ratios Net Debt/Equity (x) ROE (%)	9.1 0.5 0.6 0.8	15.1 4.4 0.5 6.6	16.3 5.8 0.4 8.7	8.2 0.3 12.2
Adj. Net Margin Return & Liquidity Ratios Net Debt/Equity (x) ROE (%) ROCE (%)	9.1 0.5 0.6	15.1 4.4 0.5	16.3 5.8 0.4	8.2 0.3
Adj. Net Margin Return & Liquidity Ratios Net Debt/Equity (x) ROE (%) ROCE (%) Per Share data & Valuation Ratios	9.1 0.5 0.6 0.8 3.1	15.1 4.4 0.5 6.6 7.6	16.3 5.8 0.4 8.7 9.2	8.2 0.3 12.2 12.0
Adj. Net Margin Return & Liquidity Ratios Net Debt/Equity (x) ROE (%) ROCE (%) Per Share data & Valuation Ratios Adjusted EPS (INR)	9.1 0.5 0.6 0.8 3.1 5.9	15.1 4.4 0.5 6.6 7.6 54.0	16.3 5.8 0.4 8.7 9.2 76.7	8.2 0.3 12.2 12.0 115.8
Adj. Net Margin Return & Liquidity Ratios Net Debt/Equity (x) ROE (%) ROCE (%) Per Share data & Valuation Ratios Adjusted EPS (INR) EPS Growth (%)	9.1 0.5 0.6 0.8 3.1 5.9 (89.3)	15.1 4.4 0.5 6.6 7.6 54.0 820.9	16.3 5.8 0.4 8.7 9.2 76.7 42.0	8.2 0.3 12.2 12.0 115.8 51.1
Adj. Net Margin Return & Liquidity Ratios Net Debt/Equity (x) ROE (%) ROCE (%) Per Share data & Valuation Ratios Adjusted EPS (INR) EPS Growth (%) DPS (INR)	9.1 0.5 0.6 0.8 3.1 5.9 (89.3) 2.5	15.1 4.4 0.5 6.6 7.6 54.0 820.9 10.0	16.3 5.8 0.4 8.7 9.2 76.7 42.0 12.0	8.2 0.3 12.2 12.0 115.8 51.1 12.5
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Adj. Net Margin Return & Liquidity Ratios Net Debt/Equity (x) ROE (%) ROE (%) Per Share data & Valuation Ratios Adjusted EPS (INR) EPS Growth (%) DPS (INR) P/E (x) EV/EBITDA (x)	9.1 0.5 0.6 0.8 3.1 5.9 (89.3) 2.5 263.3 20.2	15.1 4.4 0.5 6.6 7.6 54.0 820.9 10.0 28.6 10.4	16.3 5.8 0.4 8.7 9.2 76.7 42.0 12.0 20.1 8.9	8.2 0.3 12.2 12.0 115.8 51.1 12.5 13.3 6.9
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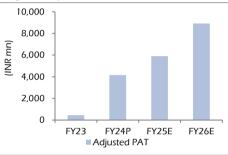






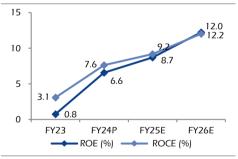
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Adjusted profit trend



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Return ratios



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Other highlights

- Capacity utilization stood at 97% in Q4FY24 vs 89% in Q4FY23
- Green power as a percentage of total power consumed, was ~25.4% in O4FY24 vs ~20.0% in Q4FY23
- Renewables power as a percentage of total power consumed was ~24.2% in FY24 vs ~21.7% in FY23
- Jute EBIT margin rose to 5.7% in Q4FY24 vs 4.9% in Q4FY23 and 0.5% in Q3FY24. Cash profit increased to ~INR 86mn vs ~INR 82mn in Q4FY23

Exhibit 1: Standalone results

YE March (INR mn)	Q4FY24	Q4FY23	YoY (%)	Q3FY24	QoQ (%)
Net Sales	14,829	15,292	(3.0)	13,316	11.4
Operating Expenses	13,320	14,301	(6.9)	11,871	12.2
% of Sales	89.8	93.5		89.1	
EBITDA	1,509	990	52.4	1,446	4.4
EBITDA Margins (%)	10.2	6.5		10.9	
Other Income	233	365	(36.1)	132	76.4
Interest	231	243	(5.0)	304	(24.1)
Depreciation	559	577	(3.0)	527	6.2
РВТ	1,023	536	90.7	747	36.8
Тах	430	119	260.7	235	82.9
Adjusted PAT	543	417	30.3	512	6.0
Reported PAT	593	417	42.1	512	15.6
Adj. NPM (%)	4.0	2.7		3.8	

Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

Exhibit 2: Consolidated cement business

Per tonne analysis (INR)	Q4FY24	Q4FY23	YoY (%)	Q3FY24	QoQ (%)
Sales volume (mn tonne)	4.9	4.4	9.2	4.2	15.5
Realization	5,178	5,261	(1.6)	5,278	(1.9)
Cost	4,214	4,646	(9.3)	4,375	(3.7)
EBITDA	964	615	56.7	903	6.8
EBIT	728	422	72.7	615	18.4

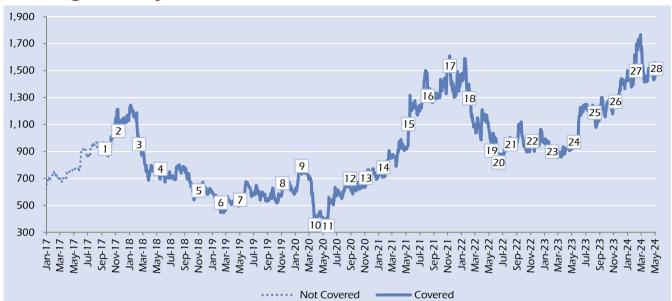
Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

Exhibit 3: Change in estimates

(INR mn)	Earlier		Revise	d	% Change	
	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E
Net sales	102,784	111,951	101,206	109,200	(1.5)	(2.5)
EBITDA	16,321	20,204	16,497	20,341	1.1	0.7
РАТ	5,607	9,090	5,905	8,920	5.3	(1.9)
Target price (INR)		1,740		1,824		4.9

Source: Elara Securities Estimate

Coverage History



	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
18	4-Feb-2022	Buy	INR 1,671	INR 1,353
19	12-May-2022	Buy	INR 1,362	INR 935
20	16-Jun-2022	Accumulate	INR 947	INR 853
21	5-Aug-2022	Accumulate	INR 1,087	INR 992
22	7-Nov-2022	Accumulate	INR 1,138	INR 1,006
23	3-Feb-2023	Buy	INR 1,178	INR 929
24	10-May-2023	Buy	INR 1,252	INR 1,000
25	9-Aug-2023	Accumulate	INR 1,343	INR 1,221
26	9-Nov-2023	Accumulate	INR 1,457	INR 1,299
27	7-Feb-2024	Accumulate	INR 1,740	INR 1,529
28	6-May-2024	Accumulate	INR 1,824	INR 1,544

Guide to Research Rating

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

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