HCL Technologies Limited (HCLT)

July 15, 2025 | CMP: INR 1,620 | Target Price: INR 1,685

Expected Share Price Return: 4.0% | Dividend Yield: 3.3% | Expected Total Return: 7.3%

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ADD



Change in Estimates Target Price Change Recommendation Company Info HCLT IN EQUITY BB Code Face Value (INR) 20 2,011/1,304 52 W High/Low (INR) INR 4379.8/ \$50.9 Mkt Cap (Bn) 2,713.7 Shares o/s (Mn) 3M Avg. Daily Volume 27,04,408

Change in Estimates FY26E FY27E INR Bn Now New Old Dev. (%) Old Dev. (%) Revenues 1,251.8 1,238.1 1.1 1,339.4 1,313.0 2.0 GPM (%) 36.2 28.2 802 bps 36.2 28.4 777 bps EBIT 221.9 244.5 227.0 (2.2)244.6 (0.0)EBITM % 17.7 18.3 (61) bps 18.3 18.6 (37) bps EPS 64.5 66.3 (2.7)71.1 71.7 (0.8)

Actual vs Conse	nsus		
INR Bn	Q1FY26A	CEBPL Est.	Dev.%
Revenue	303.4	303.9	(0.2
EBIT	49.4	54.1	(8.7
EBITM %	16.3	17.8	(150) Bps
PAT	38.4	43.7	(12.1

Key Financials								
INR Bn	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E			
Revenue (USD)	13.3	13.8	14.6	15.5	16.6			
YoY (%)	5.4	4.3	5.3	6.3	7.3			
EBIT	200.3	214.2	221.9	244.5	268.7			
EBITM %	18.2	18.3	17.7	18.3	18.7			
Adj PAT	157.0	173.9	175.1	192.8	213.4			
EPS	57.9	64.1	64.5	71.1	78.7			
ROE %	23.0	25.0	25.0	27.1	29.4			
ROCE %	32.4	33.6	32.3	33.6	34.8			
PE(x)	22.5	26.0	25.1	22.8	20.6			

Shareholding Pattern (%)						
	Mar-25	Dec-24	Sep-24			
Promoters	60.82	60.82	60.82			
Flls	19.15	19.38	18.67			
DIIs	15.44	15.21	15.78			
Public	4.59	4.59	4.73			

Relative Performance (%)					
YTD	3Y	2Y	1Y		
BSE IT	34.9	17.1	(8.0)		
HCLT	78.6	40.2	3.4		



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Q1FY26 Technology Result Preview

Q1FY26 margins miss on delayed ramp-ups, client bankruptcy & investments

- Reported Revenue for Q1FY26 stood at USD 3,545Mn up 1.3% Q0Q (vs CEBPL est. at USD 3,545Mn). The CC de-growth was 0.8% QoQ, however the cross-currency tailwind of 2.1% mitigated the further top-line deceleration. In INR terms, revenue stood at INR 3.03Bn, up 0.3% QoQ.
- EBIT for Q1FY26 came at INR 49Bn, down 9.2% QoQ (vs CEBPL est. at INR 54Bn). EBIT margin was down 171bps QoQ to 16.3% (vs CEBPL est. at 17.8%).
- PAT for Q1FY26 came at INR 38Bn, down 10.8% QoQ (vs CEBPL est. at INR 43.7Bn).

FY26E revenue guidance revised up 3-5% CC, led by deal closures certainty HCLT reported USD 1.8Bn in net new TCV bookings for Q1FY26, excluding some large deals, which got delayed due to procedural issues. However, management remains confident about their closure in Q2FY26, expecting a step-up in TCV & a corresponding ramp-up in revenue thereby bringing in more certainty on demand versus as conveyed in Q4FY25. This reinforces the company's stance on revising FY26 revenue guidance to 3-5% (from 2-5%) in CC terms, which would be driven by AI led demand across verticals and services. Growth opportunities remain strong in Digital and ER&D segments, particularly driven by AI & data capabilities, with ER&D expected to lead near to mid-term growth. While Financial Services & Technology show promise in discretionary spending, however verticals like Healthcare-Life Sciences, Manufacturing, & Retail are under pressure due to macroeconomic headwinds accelerated by change in US Tariff policy.

Al driven talent investments, lowers FY26 EBIT margin guidance to 17-18%:

Q1FY26 EBIT margin stood at 16.3%, down 161bps QoQ. The decline was mainly due to lower utilization (80bps) caused by specialized hiring, skill/ location mismatches in redeployment, & ramp-downs in automotive sector. Other contributors included higher S&M spends for Gen AI (30bps), a one-off client bankruptcy (30bps), & reduced software revenue mix (20bps). As a result, HCLT revised down its FY26 EBIT margin guidance to 17-18% (from 18-19%), factoring in Q1FY26 margin impact, ongoing investments in AI, & restructuring costs. Management aspirational EBIT margins however still range between 19-20%. Attrition rate dropped to 12.8% LTM, while headcount declined slightly by 269 to 223,151 as the company aims to drive non-linear growth. The company is now prioritizing specialized fresher hiring, offering up to 3-4x base pay. The newly hired 50 skilled fresher's team will leverage HCL tech's AI led LLM's across verticals, winning more deals with better TCV conversions and growth rates going ahead.

View & Valuation: HCLT is strategically investing to align with evolving client demands, positioning itself for sustained relevance. The recent partnership with OpenAl is expected to boost its service capabilities and product scalability. In Q1, 8 of 9 contract renewals occurred at higher revenue run rates, reinforcing confidence in its execution, supported by increased discretionary spending in key verticals like Financial Services. As a result, we revise our revenue estimates upward by 1-2%, factoring in strong growth visibility and a conservative margin stance within the guided range. This supports a modest re-rating of the stock, raising the PE multiple to 22.5x (from 22x), and maintaining our ADD rating with a revised target price of INR 1,685, based on FY27E/FY28E average EPS of INR 74.9.

HCLT Ltd.	Q1 FY26	Q4 FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1 FY25	YoY (%)
Revenues (USD Mn)	3,545	3,498	1.3	3,364	5.4
Revenues (INR Mn)	3,03,490	3,02,460	0.3	2,80,570	8.2
Employee Cost	1,75,980	1,72,460	2.0	1,64,100	7.2
Other costs	20,700	20,300	2.0	18,840	9.9
Depreciation	10,930	10,400	5.1	9,980	9.5
EBIT (INR Mn)	49,420	54,420	(9.2)	47,950	3.1
EBIT Margin (%)	16.3	18.0	(171) bps	17.1	(81) bps
PBT	51,890	57,350	(9.5)	57,070	(9.1)
Tax	13,450	14,260	(5.7)	14,480	(7.1)
Adj. PAT (INR Mn)	38,440	43,070	(10.7)	42,570	(9.7)
Basic EPS (INR)	14.2	15.9	(10.8)	15.7	(9.7)

Q1FY26 Results Update

Management Call - Highlights

- HCLT has announced strategic partnerships with OpenAI, UiPath, Google Cloud and Nvidia for enterprise AI transformation.
- In terms of productivity gains, GenAl can provide 25-30% benefits in software development and 40-50% in business process operations, with contact centers seeing up to 75% staff reduction through Agentic conversational AI.
- HCLTech has launched a comprehensive AI portfolio including AI Force, AI Foundry, AI Labs, and AI Engineering, with AI Force already deployed across 35 clients and 70+ deployments.
- Significant traction on Agentic AI is been seen with new services models to derive outcomes in form of subscription led services. 3 big things clients are talking about;

- Digital is equal to business, so bake AI into core of Software products.

- Cloud consumption as a service model and delivering software license in

new ecosystem.

- How can clients plug into their own models and leverage on Data and AI.

- Al & GenAl are now central to most deals, enhancing operational efficiency & accelerating application modernization efforts.
- The company is working with partners to deliver GPU-as-a-service capabilities for AI infrastructure rather than owning assets directly.
- HCL Software's Annual Recurring Revenue (ARR) was USD 1.06Bn, up 1.3% YoY, with the company actively working to improve subscription and SaaS revenues.
- The board declared an interim dividend of INR12 per share for Q1FY26.
- Operating cash flow to Net income conversion was 129%, while Free cash flow to Net income stood at 121%. Days sales outstanding (DSO) for the quarter was 82 days.
- HCL Software launched several AI-enabled products including: Max AI in HCL Unica for personalized campaigns, Commerce AI in HCL Commerce for testing automation, and an Agentic AI UNO builder and orchestration platform.
- The company launched new platform solutions including Contact Center as a Service, Net Insight, Trade Compliance Insight Gen, Clinical Advisor, Invoice to Payment and Lab as a Service.
- HCL Tech expects to see higher fresher's additions in FY26 v/s in FY25.

Sequential Operating Performance

	2QFY24	3QFY24	4QFY24	1QFY25	2QFY25	3QFY25	4QFY25	1QFY26
Income Statement								
Revenues (USD Mn)	3,225	3,415	3,430	3,364	3,445	3,533	3,498	3,545
Revenues (INR Mn)	2,66,720	2,84,460	2,84,990	2,80,570	2,88,620	2,98,900	3,02,460	3,03,490
EBIT (INR Mn)	49,340	56,150	50,180	47,950	53,620	58,210	54,420	49,420
EBIT Margin (%)	18.5	19.7	17.6	17.1	18.6	19.5	18.0	16.3
PAT (INR Mn)	38,320	43,500	39,860	42,570	42,350	45,910	43,070	38,430
FDEPS (INR)	14.13	16.03	14.69	15.69	15.61	16.93	15.88	14.17
Operating Metrics								
Revenues - Geography (%)								
America	64.5	64.5	65.2	66.0	65.1	65.5	57.4	56.5
Europe	28.5	29.0	28.9	27.9	28.4	28.2	27.5	28.3
ROW	7.0	6.5	5.9	6.1	6.5	6.3	15.1	15.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Revenues -Industry (%)								
Financial Services	22.6	21.7	21.6	21.0	20.5	20.3	21.1	21.6
Manufacturing	19.3	20.0	20.4	19.4	19.5	19.1	18.6	18.6
Technology & Services	13.1	12.8	12.3	13.0	13.1	13.3	13.4	14.0
Retail & CPG	9.6	9.6	9.1	9.4	9.6	10.6	9.7	9.7
Teleco, Media, Publishing & Entertainment	8.0	9.7	11.5	12.2	12.1	12.3	13.9	13.1
Lifescienes & Healthcare	17.5	16.4	16.3	15.9	16.0	15.5	14.7	14.5
Public Services	9.9	9.8	8.8	9.1	9.2	8.9	8.6	8.5
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Revenue from Business segments (%)								
IT and Business Services	74.6	71.7	74.4	74.5	74.6	73.0	73.3	74.0
Engineering and R&D Services	16.0	16.4	16.1	15.9	15.8	16.0	17.1	17.0
HCL Software	9.4	11.9	9.5	9.6	9.6	11.0	9.6	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employee Metrics								
Total Headcount	2,21,139	2,24,756	2,27,481	2,19,401	2,18,621	2,20,755	2,23,420	2,23,151
Attrition Rate LTM (%)	14.2	12.8	12.4	12.8	12.9	13.2	13.0	12.8

Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities

Note: HCLT has started reporting Geography-wise metric in new format from Q4FY25 onwards

Revenue up 1.3% sequentially in USD terms





Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities

Revenue expected to grow at 6.3% CAGR over FY25-28E



Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities

EBIT expected to grow at 7.8% CAGR over FY25-28E



Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities



PATM declined on weaker operating performance

Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities

Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities

PAT expected to grow at 7.0% CAGR over FY25-27E



Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities

Attrition rate declined to 12.8%



Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities



Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities



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Life sciences, Retail & Mfg to remain under pressure



Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities

Revenue heavily dependedent on US & Europe markets

TCV Deal wins (USD Mn)



Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities

1 Year Forward PE Band



Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities

Income statement (Consolidated in INR Mn)

Particular	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue (USD Mn)	13,270	13,840	14,573	15,498	16,630
Revenue	10,99,130	11,70,550	12,51,826	13,39,406	14,38,484
Gross profit	3,77,880	3,92,400	4,53,161	4,84,865	5,20,731
EBITDA	2,42,000	2,55,040	2,65,837	2,89,294	3,14,272
Depreciation	41,730	40,840	43,960	44,761	45,606
EBIT	2,00,270	2,14,200	2,21,877	2,44,533	2,68,666
Other income	9,400	18,410	12,225	12,536	15,908
РАТ	1,57,020	1,73,900	1,75,059	1,92,776	2,13,431
EPS	57.9	64.1	64.5	71.1	78.7

Ratio Analysis	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Growth Ratios (%)					
Revenues (USD)	5.4	4.3	5.3	6.3	7.3
Revenues (INR)	8.3	6.5	6.9	7.0	7.4
EBITDA	6.9	5.4	4.2	8.8	8.6
EBIT	8.4	7.0	3.6	10.2	9.9
Margin Ratios (%)					
EBITDA Margin	22.0	21.8	21.2	21.6	21.8
EBIT Margin	18.2	18.3	17.7	18.3	18.7
Profitability (%)					
ROE	23.0	25.0	25.0	27.1	29.4
ROIC	26.3	27.4	27.3	29.2	31.1
ROCE	32.4	33.6	32.3	33.6	34.8
Valuation					
OCF / Net profit (%)	112.1	103.9	97.2	97.1	96.6
EV/ EBITDA (x)	14.0	17.2	16.0	14.7	13.5
BVPS (x)	251.4	256.6	258.1	262.3	267.0
Free Cash Flow yield(%)	6.3	4.8	4.8	5.3	5.8

Balance sheet (Consolidated in INR Mn)

Particular	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Tangible fixed assets	49,990	45,600	46,574	47,313	48,707
Goodwill & intangible assets	2,72,620	2,86,550	2,89,550	2,93,550	2,98,550
Investments	29,100	30,160	35,160	40,160	45,160
Cash & Cash equivalents	2,71,930	2,87,620	2,81,321	2,84,568	2,89,329
Other non-current assets	52,750	72,040	78,340	84,740	91,240
Other current assets	3,21,380	3,33,470	3,61,712	3,87,297	4,16,039
Total assets	9,97,770	10,55,440	10,92,656	11,37,628	11,89,025
Shareholder's funds	6,82,630	6,96,550	7,00,870	7,12,065	7,24,945
Minority interest	80	180	230	260	310
Borrowings	23,270	22,910	22,930	21,150	19,508
Other non-current liabilities	65,570	77,620	87,620	99,620	1,12,620
Other current liabilities	2,26,220	2,58,180	2,81,007	3,04,533	3,31,643
Total equity & liabilities	9,97,770	10,55,440	10,92,656	11,37,628	11,89,025

Cash Flows (INR Mn)	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Cash Flows From Operations	2,24,480	2,22,610	2,15,604	2,37,478	2,59,404
Cash Flows From Investing	(67,230)	(49,140)	(39,360)	(53,581)	(56,023)
Cash Flows From Financing	(1,53,490)	(1,85,430)	(1,70,720)	(1,83,360)	(2,02,193)

DuPont Analysis (INR Mn)	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
ROE	23.0%	25.0%	25.0%	27.1%	29.4%
Net Profit Margin	14.3%	14.9%	14.0%	14.4%	14.8%
Asset Turnover	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Equity Multiplier	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6

Source: HCLT, Choice Institutional Equities

Historical share price chart: HCL Technologies Limited



Date	Rating	Target Price
October 13, 2023	ADD	1,300
January 14, 2024	ADD	1,670
April 28, 2024	BUY	1,550
July 14, 2024	REDUCE	1,615
October 15, 2024	BUY	2,105
April 09, 2025	BUY	1,807
April 23,2025	ADD	1,580
July 15, 2025	ADD	1,685

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*Large Cap: More Than INR 20,000Cr Market Cap *Mid & Small Cap: Less Than INR 20,000Cr Market Cap

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