

TATA COMM

RESULT UPDATE

KEY DATA

Rating	BUY
Sector relative	Outperformer
Price (INR)	1,584
12 month price target (INR)	1,900
52 Week High/Low	2,175/1,291
Market cap (INR bn/USD bn)	452/5.3
Free float (%)	39.6
Avg. daily value traded (INR mn)	717.7

SHAREHOLDING PATTERN

	Mar-25	Dec-24	Sep-24
Promoter	58.86%	58.86%	58.86%
FII	16.99%	17.80%	18.06%
DII	14.51%	13.66%	13.45%
Pledge	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

FINANCIALS

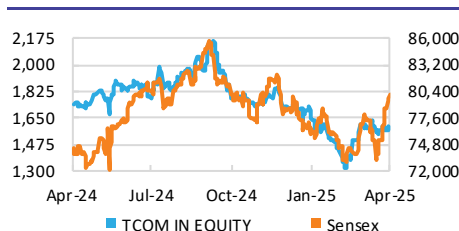
(INR mn)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	2,09,688	2,31,891	2,54,291	2,81,947
EBITDA	42,301	45,443	57,761	66,980
Adjusted profit	12,040	11,449	19,479	27,203
Diluted EPS (INR)	42.2	40.2	68.3	95.4
EPS growth (%)	(30.0)	(4.9)	70.1	39.6
RoAE (%)	58.0	76.3	52.5	49.7
P/E (x)	37.7	39.6	23.3	16.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	14.6	13.7	10.5	8.6
Dividend yield (%)	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.3

CHANGE IN ESTIMATES

	Revised estimates		% Revision	
Year to March	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	2,54,291	2,81,947	-1.2%	-4.1%
EBITDA	57,761	66,980	-1.4%	-5.3%
Adjusted profit	19,479	27,203	-10.1%	-13.3%
Diluted EPS (INR)	68.3	95.4	-10.1%	-13.4%

PRICE PERFORMANCE



Growth accelerating; margins to catch up

TCOM posted decent Q4 results with revenue at INR59.9bn (+3.3% QoQ/+6.1% YoY) in line with estimates. Data revenue grew +9.5% YoY with Digital up +17.2% YoY. Consolidated EBITDA margin was 18.7% (-164bp QoQ), missing our estimates, marred by few exceptional items. Adjusted PAT (net of gain on asset sale) was INR2.9bn, broadly in-line.

TCOM is making good progress on data/digital growth, but the path to INR280bn data revenue aspiration by FY27 is getting steeper. We are now assuming it shall achieve the FY27 revenue target in FY28, leading to -1%/-5% cut in FY26E/27E EBITDA. We continue to like the story, at the confluence of telecom (stability) and IT Services (growth) sectors. Maintain 'BUY/SO' with TP of INR1,900 (earlier INR2,000).

Digital growth gaining more traction; one-off in CPaaS

Data revenue grew 3.9% QoQ (+9.5% YoY) to INR50.9bn on a blended basis. This was driven by both Digital (+5.5% QoQ/+17.2% YoY) and Core Connectivity (+2.5% QoQ/3.2% YoY) segments. In Digital, Next-gen grew +3.9% QoQ while Cloud & Security grew +18.9% QoQ. Media too grew +13.9% QoQ, whereas CPaaS posted fall of -2.9% QoQ. CPaaS business faced headwinds due to client specific issue also resulting in a rise in higher fixed costs for the business. Management said H1FY25 posted healthy order wins while H2FY25 was normalised due to macro uncertainties.

Margins hurt by one-offs; PAT and debt get a one-off boost

The EBITDA margin dipped to 18.7% (-164bp QoQ/-33bp YoY) with data margins at 17.5% (-171bp QoQ/-93bp YoY) for Q4FY25. Margins were affected by one-off client issue (CPaaS), spillover from cable repairs cost and higher marketing spends. EBITDA margins for FY25 stood at 19.8% even as core business EBITDA margins (excluding recent acquisitions) remained steady at 23.3%. Reported PAT came in at INR10.4bn, boosted by exceptional gains of INR6.6bn on sale of land parcel and INR3.1bn on sale of payment business (TCPSL). The proceeds from these exceptional gains also led to a sharp reduction in net debt to INR93.8bn (INR104.7bn in Q3FY25).

Remain positive on unique tech-telecom story

We continue to stay optimistic, anticipating Digital growth and consolidated margins to pick up sharply in FY26, leading to strong growth in FY26E/27E. We now reckon TCOM shall achieve its INR280b Data revenue guidance by FY28 (versus FY27 earlier). We roll forward valuation to FY27—valuing the Digital/Core/Others businesses at 12x/9x/4x FY27E EV/EBITDA. In all, we remain positive on this unique technology and telecom play (read IC [here](#)); maintain 'BUY'.

Financials

Year to March	Q4FY25	Q4FY24	% Change	Q3FY25	% Change
Net Revenue	59,904	56,917	5.2	57,981	3.3
EBITDA	11,221	10,563	6.2	11,810	(5.0)
Adjusted Profit*	4,626	3,733	23.9	2,509	84.4
Diluted EPS (INR)	16.2	13.1	23.9	8.8	84.3

Financial Statements

Income Statement (INR mn)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Total operating income	2,09,688	2,31,891	2,54,291	2,81,947
COGS	80,864	1,00,519	89,866	99,637
Employee costs	44,530	46,032	52,130	57,799
Other expenses	41,993	39,898	54,534	57,531
EBITDA	42,301	45,443	57,761	66,980
Depreciation	24,697	26,176	27,465	27,995
Less: Interest expense	6,442	7,341	7,091	6,000
Add: Other income	2,825	1,380	2,576	2,995
Profit before tax	14,187	16,318	25,982	36,280
Prov for tax	2,135	4,865	6,495	9,070
Less: Other adj	(2,357)	6,915	0	0
Reported profit	9,683	18,364	19,479	27,203
Less: Excp.item (net)	(2,357)	6,915	0	0
Adjusted profit	12,040	11,449	19,479	27,203
Diluted shares o/s	285	285	285	285
Adjusted diluted EPS	42.2	40.2	68.3	95.4
DPS (INR)	16.7	25.0	20.0	20.0
Tax rate (%)	15.0	29.8	25.0	25.0

Important Ratios (%)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Material cost as % of rev	38.6	43.3	35.3	35.3
Staff cost as % of rev	21.2	19.9	20.5	20.5
Other exp. as % of rev	20.0	17.2	21.4	20.4
EBITDA margin (%)	20.2	19.6	22.7	23.8
Net profit margin (%)	5.7	4.9	7.7	9.6
Revenue growth (% YoY)	17.5	10.6	9.7	10.9
EBITDA growth (% YoY)	(2.0)	7.4	27.1	16.0
Adj. profit growth (%)	(30.0)	(4.9)	70.1	39.6

Assumptions (%)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
GDP (YoY %)	6.5	6.3	6.5	6.5
Repo rate (%)	6.5	5.3	5.3	5.3
USD/INR (average)	84.0	84.6	86.5	86.5
Total Revenue growth	17.5	10.6	9.7	10.9
Total organic growth	7.4	4.5	9.7	10.9
Data business growth	21.9	13.7	11.7	12.4
Core connectivty growth	6.0	2.8	4.6	4.6
Digital business growth	55.4	29.3	19.8	20.2

Valuation Metrics

Year to March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Diluted P/E (x)	37.7	39.6	23.3	16.7
Price/BV (x)	25.4	15.0	10.3	6.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	14.6	13.7	10.5	8.6
Dividend yield (%)	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.3

Source: Company and Nuvama estimates

Note: Financials not restated for retrospective period

Balance Sheet (INR mn)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Share capital	2,850	2,850	2,850	2,850
Reserves	15,014	27,362	41,141	62,643
Shareholders funds	17,864	30,212	43,991	65,493
Minority interest	39	31	38	45
Borrowings	1,01,178	1,08,801	88,801	68,801
Trade payables	36,562	35,692	40,408	46,347
Other liabs & prov	48,383	51,921	51,921	51,921
Total liabilities	2,45,613	2,65,846	2,65,248	2,73,597
Net block	85,332	90,684	88,049	85,169
Intangible assets	5,362	2,898	2,798	2,698
Capital WIP	0	0	0	0
Total fixed assets	90,694	93,581	90,847	87,867
Non current inv	13,068	16,308	16,308	16,308
Cash/cash equivalent	9,917	15,031	12,089	19,438
Sundry debtors	37,584	40,061	43,891	46,347
Loans & advances	0	0	0	0
Other assets	14,799	21,102	21,265	21,454
Total assets	2,45,613	2,65,846	2,65,248	2,73,597

Free Cash Flow (INR mn)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Reported profit	9,683	18,364	19,479	27,203
Add: Depreciation	24,697	26,176	27,465	27,995
Interest (net of tax)	6,442	7,341	7,091	6,000
Others	(6,612)	(18,456)	5,371	12,670
Less: Changes in WC	(192)	4,064	(723)	(3,294)
Operating cash flow	31,820	29,108	52,189	61,504
Less: Capex	(20,718)	(21,994)	(24,915)	(25,449)
Free cash flow	11,102	7,114	27,274	36,054

Key Ratios

Year to March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
RoE (%)	58.0	76.3	52.5	49.7
RoCE (%)	14.6	12.0	18.1	23.6
Inventory days	5	4	7	7
Receivable days	57	61	60	58
Payable days	156	131	155	159
Working cap (% sales)	(15.7)	(12.4)	(11.6)	(11.7)
Gross debt/equity (x)	5.7	3.6	2.0	1.0
Net debt/equity (x)	5.1	3.1	1.7	0.8
Interest coverage (x)	2.7	2.6	4.3	6.5

Valuation Drivers

Year to March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
EPS growth (%)	(30.0)	(4.9)	70.1	39.6
RoE (%)	58.0	76.3	52.5	49.7
EBITDA growth (%)	(2.0)	7.4	27.1	16.0
Payout ratio (%)	49.2	38.8	29.3	21.0

Q4FY25 earnings call highlights

- Normalising for forex benefits, top line grew 2.3% QoQ/4.1% YoY for Q4FY25.
- TCOM logged healthy growth in the enterprise segment in India and International markets with India enterprise growth at 8.7% YoY and International enterprise growth at 20%-plus YoY despite macroeconomic uncertainties.
- FY25 EBITDA margins were at 19.8% while core business EBITDA margins excluding subsidiaries and recent acquisitions were steady at 23.3% (-40bp YoY).
- H1FY25 was strong in terms of order book, whereas H2FY25 reported normalised order book growth. For FY25, the ACV growth remained in high double-digits.
- TCOM remains a leader in DC-to-DC connectivity segment and continues to benefit from steady demand in dedicated metro network bills in India.
- CPaaS revenue fell QoQ due to one specific client-related issue and seasonality of the CIS business in Q4.
- In multi-cloud connect, the company won landmark deals across verticals such as BFSI, automotive and airlines.
- TCOM Vayu addresses the growing challenges of rising cloud costs, multi-cloud complexities, and AI infrastructure demands that it places on the enterprises.
- In the media vertical, the company signed a deal with a Middle East broadcaster to transform the broadcaster's broadcast network.
- Margins were hurt by temporary customer issue; spillover from cable repairs cost and higher marketing spends on the new launch of Vayu cloud services.
- FY25 margins were also hurt by increased provisions created due to uncertainty in geopolitical factors (impact of 50bp).
- Management remains dedicated to moving away from non-core business and focusing more on core business.
- Given Kalyera and Switch reaching its inflection point, management expects synergies to kick in Q1FY26 onwards.
- Some deals were likely to be closed in Q4FY25; though they got rolled over to the next quarter, there were no cancellations of any deals.
- The aim is to bring down net debt/EBITDA below 2x while TCOM is almost near achieving this target.
- Management will stick to their capital allocation policy and with incremental FCF, management would build a war chest to fund growth both organically and inorganically.
- Net debt/EBITDA ratio to post an improvement first followed by improvements in RoCE and finally EBITDA margins.

Exhibit 1: Financial snapshot (INR mn)

Year to March	Q4FY25	Q3FY25	QoQ	Q4FY24	YoY	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenues	59,904	57,981	3.3	56,917	5.2	2,09,688	2,31,891	2,54,291	2,81,947
Cost of materials	27,125	25,134	7.9	23,333	16.3	80,864	1,00,519	89,866	99,637
Employee Benefit Expense	11,361	11,240	1.1	11,755	(3.4)	44,530	46,032	52,130	57,799
Other Expense	10,197	9,797	4.1	11,267	(9.5)	41,993	39,898	54,534	57,531
EBITDA	11,221	11,810	(5.0)	10,563	6.2	42,301	45,443	57,761	66,980
Depreciation	6,725	6,371	5.5	6,658	1.0	24,697	26,176	27,465	27,995
EBIT	4,496	5,438	(17.3)	3,905	15.1	17,604	19,267	30,297	38,985
Less : Exceptional Items	-5,778	149	NM	521	NM	2,357	-6,915	0	0
Less: Interest expense	1,824	1,869	(2.4)	1,882	(3.0)	6,442	7,341	7,091	6,000
Other Income	688	287	139.5	570	20.7	2,825	1,380	2,576	2,995
Add: Share of profits from associates	3,027	-85	NM	58	NM	200	3,012	200	300
PBT	12,164	3,623	235.8	2,130	471.0	11,831	23,233	25,982	36,280
Provision for taxation	1,759	1,262	39.4	-1,085	(262.1)	2,135	4,865	6,495	9,070
Less: Minority Interest	2	1	41.7	3	(50.0)	12	4	7	7
Reported profit	10,403	2,360	340.9	3,212	223.9	9,683	18,364	19,479	27,203
Add : Exceptional item	-5,777.9	149.3		521.1		2,357	-6,915	-	-
Adjusted profit*	4,626	2,509	84.4	3,733	23.9	12,040	11,449	19,479	27,203
as % of net revenues									
Employee Benefit Expense	19.0	19.4		20.7		21.2	19.9	20.5	20.5
Other Expenses	17.0	16.9		19.8		20.0	17.2	21.4	20.4
EBITDA margin	18.7	20.4		18.6		20.2	19.6	22.7	23.8
EBIT margin	7.5	9.4		6.9		8.4	8.3	11.9	13.8
Adjusted profit	7.7	4.3		6.6		5.7	4.9	7.7	9.6
Tax rate	14.5	34.8		(50.9)		18.0	20.9	25.0	25.0

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Note: Financials not restated for retrospective period

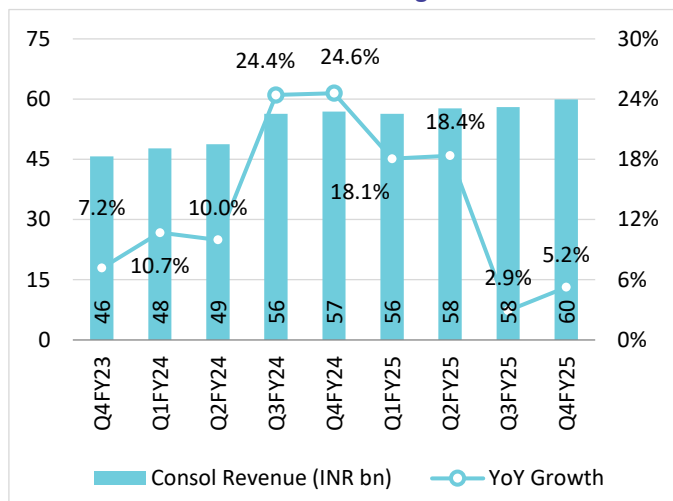
Exhibit 2: Digital revenue breakdown

		Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25
Collaboration/CPaaS	Revenue	4,388	4,063	10,536	10,509	10,447	11,140	11,773	11,437
	YoY Growth	19.4%	7.5%	162.4%	171.6%	138.1%	174.2%	11.7%	8.8%
Cloud and Security	Revenue	3,487	3,705	3,646	3,670	4,157	4,151	4,320	5,139
	YoY Growth	23.9%	24.4%	12.5%	2.9%	19.2%	12.1%	18.5%	40.0%
Next Gen Connectivity	Revenue	2,213	2,555	2,530	2,468	2,078	2,172	2,485	2,581
	YoY Growth	46.6%	46.9%	37.9%	28.1%	-6.1%	-15.0%	-1.8%	4.6%
Media	Revenue	2,928	3,070	3,089	3,023	3,367	2,889	3,083	3,513
	YoY Growth	108.7%	107.0%	110.3%	110.6%	15.0%	-5.9%	-0.2%	16.2%
Incubation Services	Revenue	1,132	1,175	1,193	1,153	1,388	1,856	1,468	1,729
	YoY Growth	27.5%	-2.7%	-2.3%	-13.7%	22.6%	58.0%	23.1%	50.0%

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

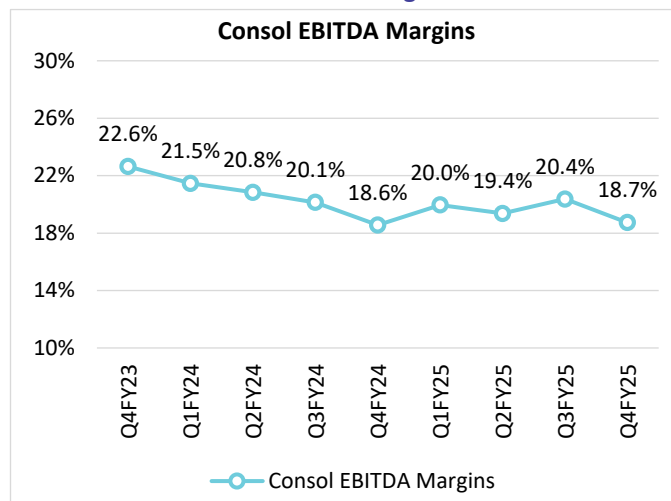
Note: Financials not restated for retrospective period

Exhibit 3: Consolidated revenue and growth



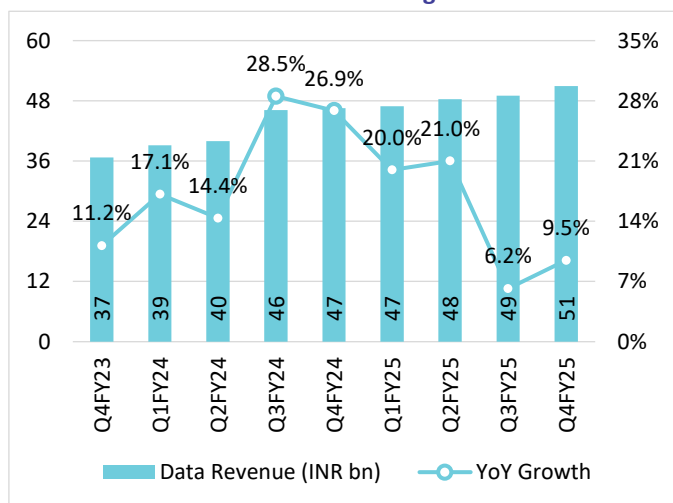
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 4: Consolidated EBITDA margins



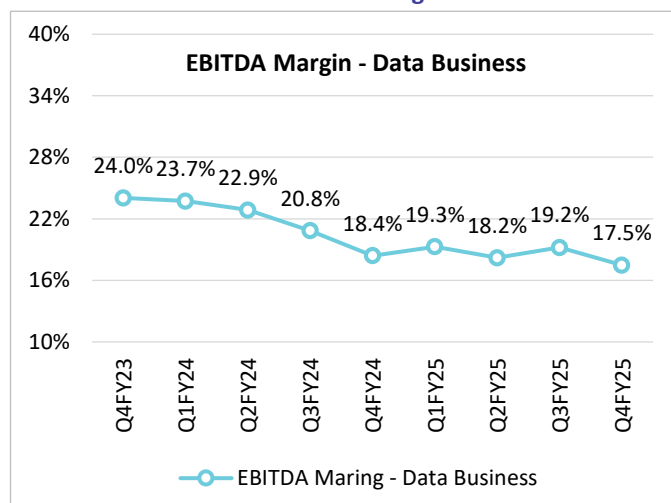
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 5: Data business revenue and growth



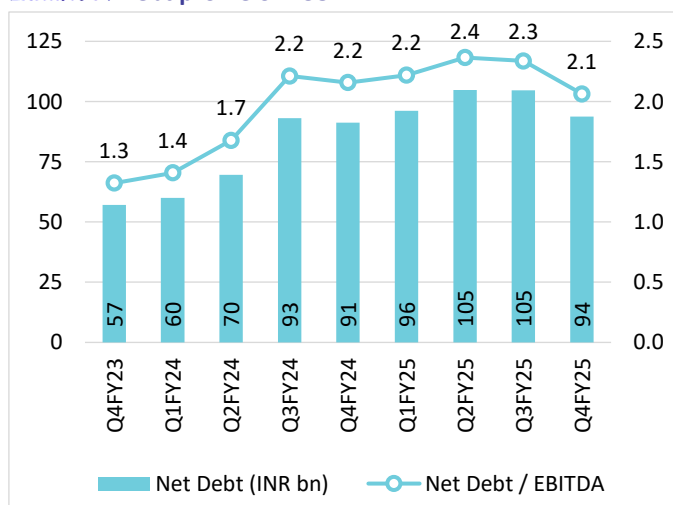
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 6: Data business EBITDA margins



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

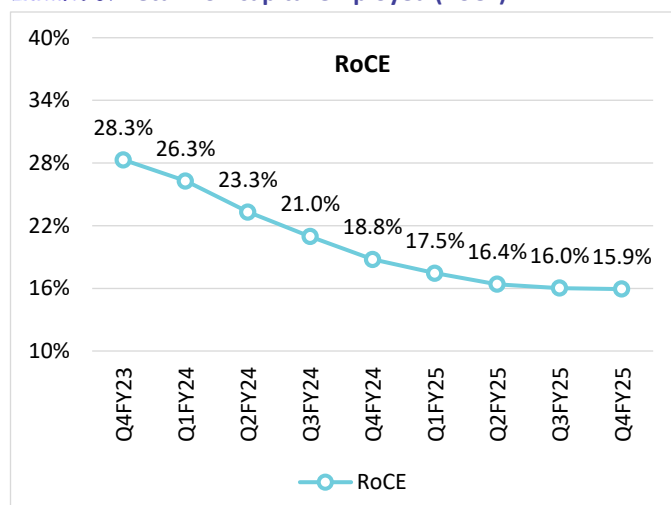
Exhibit 7: Debt profile of TCOM



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Note: Financials not restated for retrospective period

Exhibit 8: Return on capital employed (RoCE)



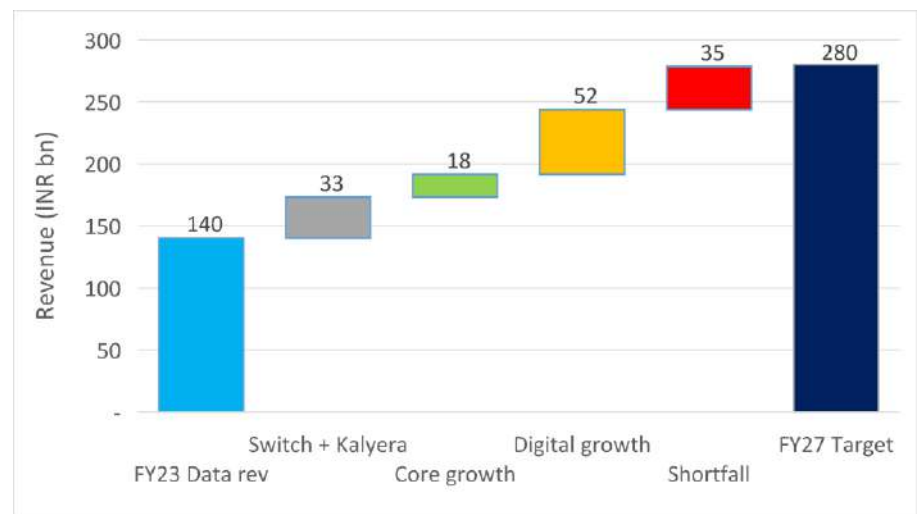
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 9: SotP valuation of TCOM

Segment (INR mn)	FY27 EBITDA	Target multiple	Total EV	Per share
Data business				
Core Connectivity	48,983	9.0	4,40,850	1,547
Digital	9,933	12.0	1,19,196	418
Voice business	1,262	4.0	5,047	18
Other businesses	6,802	4.0	27,206	95
Total Business EV			5,92,299	2,078
Net debt			49,363	173
Total Business Equity Value			5,42,936	1,900

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 10: FY27 target looks difficult to achieve now, organically



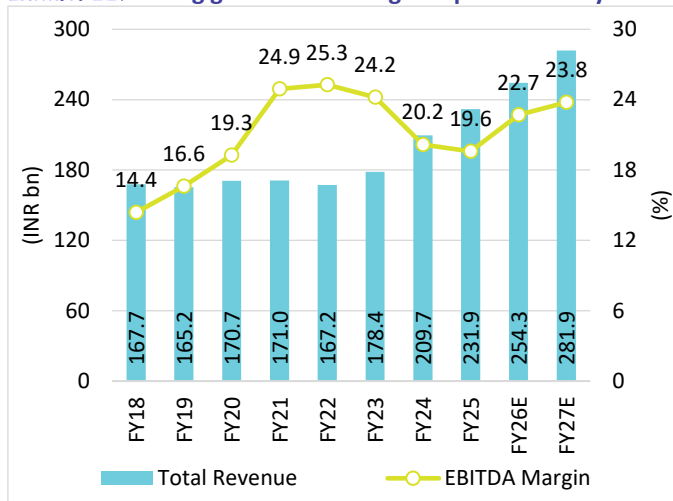
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 11: Summary of TCOM financials

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Consolidated						
Revenue	1,67,247	1,78,383	2,09,688	2,31,891	2,54,291	2,81,947
% YoY	-2%	7%	18%	11%	10%	11%
EBITDA	42,267	43,182	42,301	45,443	57,761	66,980
% YoY	-1%	2%	-2%	7%	27%	16%
% Margins	25.3%	24.2%	20.2%	19.6%	22.7%	23.8%
PAT	14,758	17,196	12,040	11,449	19,479	27,203
% YoY	11%	17%	-30%	-5%	70%	40%
Data						
Revenue	1,27,788	1,40,955	1,71,805	1,95,272	2,18,200	2,45,256
% YoY	1%	10%	22%	14%	12%	12%
EBITDA	39,899	38,063	36,616	36,175	48,924	58,916
% YoY	0%	-5%	-4%	-1%	35%	20%
% Margins	31.2%	27.0%	21.3%	18.5%	22.4%	24.0%
Core Connectivity						
Revenue	90,377	95,565	1,01,272	1,04,097	1,08,931	1,13,915
% YoY	1%	6%	6%	3%	5%	5%
EBITDA	39,869	41,843	43,547	44,762	46,840	48,983
% YoY	1%	5%	4%	3%	5%	5%
% Margins	44.1%	43.8%	43.0%	43.0%	43.0%	43.0%
Digital Portfolio						
Revenue	37,412	45,391	70,533	91,175	1,09,270	1,31,341
% YoY	1%	21%	55%	29%	20%	20%
EBITDA	31	-3,780	-6,931	-8,587	2,084	9,933
% YoY	-93%	-12449%	83%	24%	-124%	377%
% Margins	0.1%	-8.3%	-9.8%	-9.4%	1.9%	7.6%
Digital Revenue						
Next gen connectivity	5,816	7,010	9,766	9,316	11,400	13,337
% YoY	21%	21%	39%	-5%	22%	17%
Cloud Solutions	9,906	12,599	14,507	17,767	22,695	26,550
% YoY	10%	27%	15%	22%	28%	17%
Collaboration/CPaaS	15,027	15,338	29,496	44,797	52,024	64,372
% YoY	-19%	2%	92%	52%	16%	24%
Media	4,515	5,791	12,110	12,853	15,515	18,150
% YoY	38%	28%	109%	6%	21%	17%
Incubation	2,148	4,652	4,653	6,441	7,635	8,932
% YoY	68%	117%	0%	38%	19%	17%
Voice						
Revenue	22,864	20,542	16,991	16,328	14,594	14,019
% YoY	-18%	-10%	-17%	-4%	-11%	-4%
Others						
Revenue	16,595	16,886	20,892	20,291	21,496	22,672
% YoY	-3%	2%	24%	-3%	6%	5%

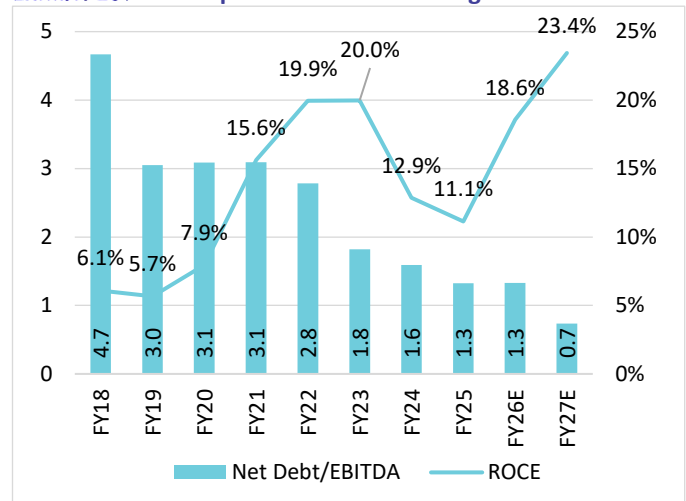
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 12: Strong growth and margin expansion likely...



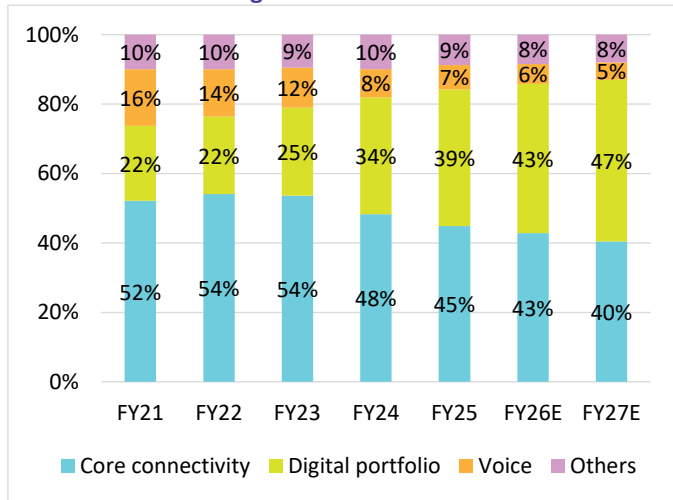
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 13: ... to improve RoCE and leverage



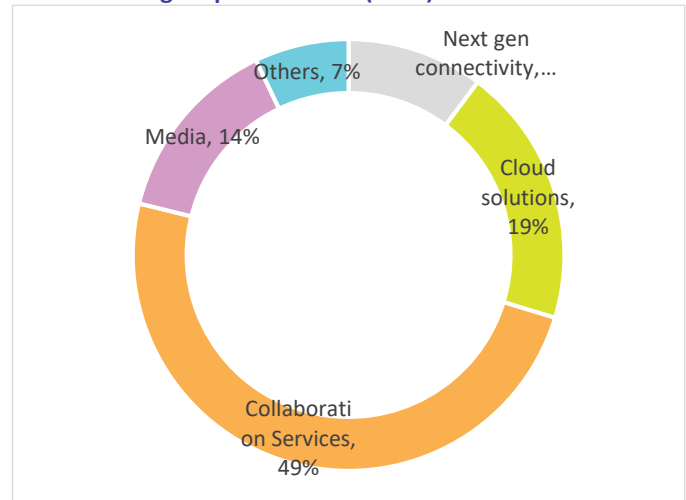
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 14: Share of digital revenue to increase



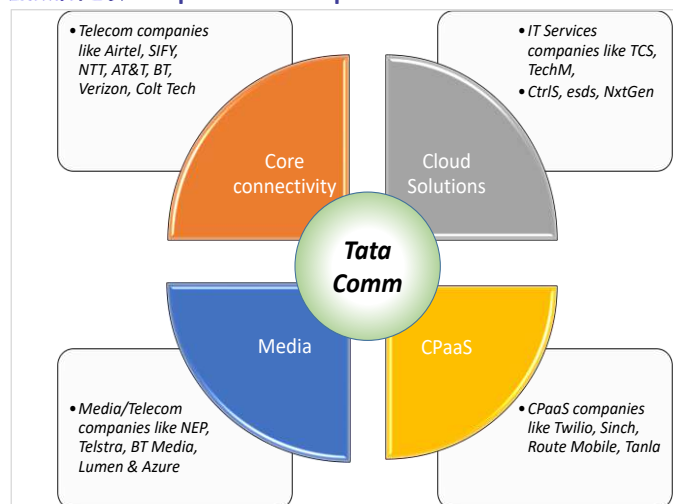
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 15: Digital portfolio mix (FY25)



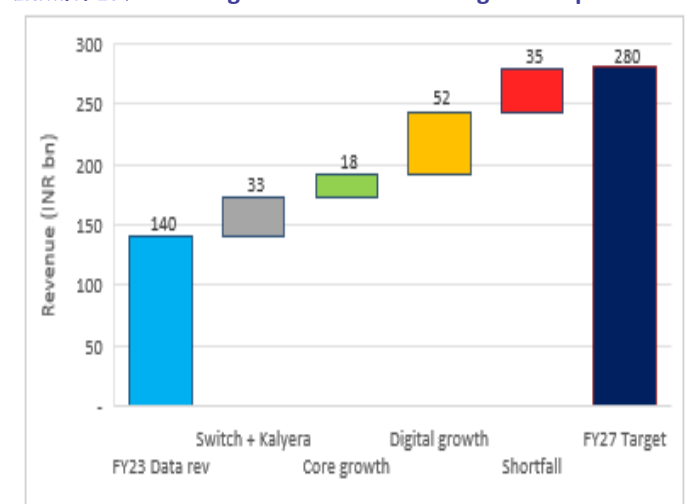
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 16: Unique set of competitors in each domain



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 17: FY27 target achievable via inorganic help



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Company Description

Tata Communications was incorporated as Videsh Sanchar Nigam (VSNL), a public sector enterprise, in 1986. In 2002, the Tata Group acquired 25% stake in VSNL. In FY06, VSNL acquired Tyco and Teleglobe providing it undersea cable network spanning 60k km connecting the continents of North America, Europe, and Asia. In 2008, VSNL was renamed Tata Communications and announced an expansion of network connectivity into Africa through an agreement with Neotel. In recent years, it has developed and expanded its portfolio of digital solutions around the telecom infrastructure – to get transformed from a telecom infrastructure provider – to an enabler of digital telecom solutions.

Investment Theme

TCOM primarily has two business segments (excluding others, which are small and/or declining) – Core connectivity and Digital Portfolio. The Core connectivity business forms 52% of revenue – in which it provides traditional point-to-point (P2P) connectivity solutions for enterprises. The digital business (25% of revenue) is the new-gen hi-tech Digital portfolio (Digital), built around its connectivity solutions – helping enterprises leverage the power of digital solutions like cloud and XaaS. Combined, TCOM intends to be able to address all the connectivity-related needs of an enterprise. In addition to these segments, it has an ATM network subsidiary in India (Tata Communications Payment Solutions) and a network management outsourcing subsidiary that supports global telecom service providers (Tata Communications Transformation Services).

Key Risks

- Weak macro environment leading to deferment of technology spends by enterprises across the world
- Regulatory changes in the telecom sector
- Competitive intensity
- Technology disruptions
- Contingent liability of INR77bn for AGR dues

Additional Data

Management

CEO	A S Lakshminarayanan
CFO	Kabir Ahmed Shakir
Wholetime Director	
COO	N. Ganapathy Subramaniam
Auditor	S.R. Batliboi & Associates LLP

Holdings – Top 10*

	% Holding		% Holding
Panatone Finves	44.80	Vanguard Group	1.66
Tata Sons Pvt L	14.07	Jhunjhunwala Re	1.58
HDFC AMC Ltd	4.76	Norges Bank	1.44
First Sentier I	3.52	Quant Money Man	1.38
Mirae Asset Fin	2.25	Blackrock Inc	1.36

*Latest public data

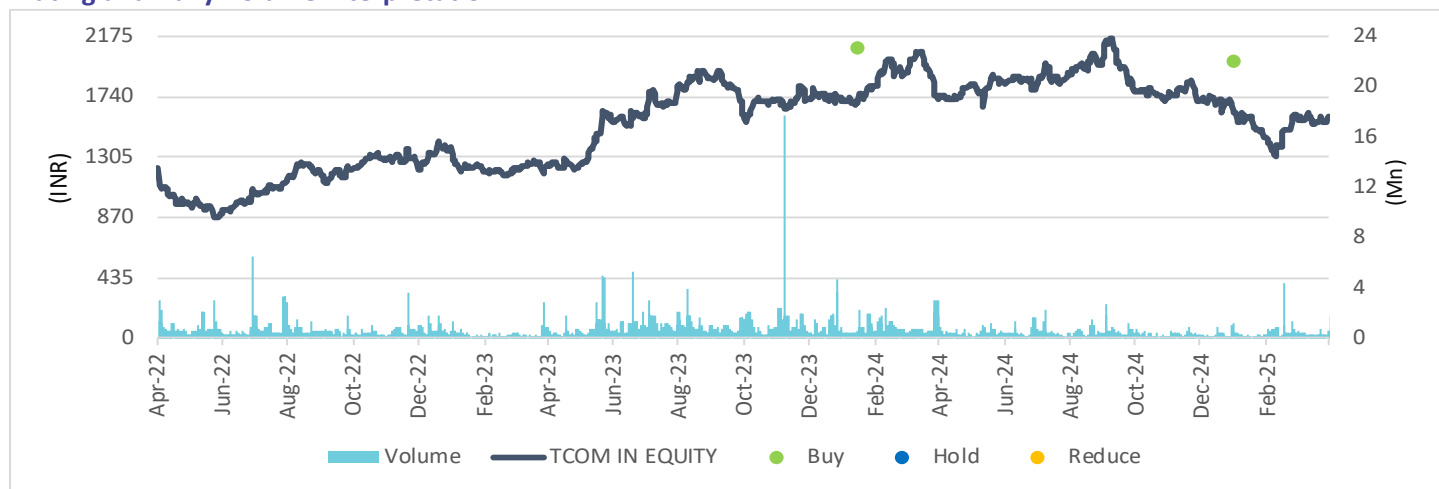
Recent Company Research

Date	Title	Price	Reco
05-Feb-25	On a solid foundation to capture growth; <i>Visit Note</i>	1,605	Buy
22-Jan-25	Modest results; ask rate climbing; <i>Result Update</i>	1,680	Buy
17-Oct-24	In-line results; growth continues to elu; <i>Result Update</i>	1,830	Buy

Recent Sector Research

Date	Name of Co./Sector	Title
13-Feb-25	Vodafone Idea	Modest results as subs losses continue; <i>Result Update</i>
07-Feb-25	Bharti Airtel	Continuously improving fundamentals; <i>Result Update</i>
28-Jan-25	Route Mobile	Growth led by realisation; <i>Result Update</i>

Rating and Daily Volume Interpretation



Source: Bloomberg, Nuvama research

Rating Rationale & Distribution: Nuvama Research

Rating	Expected absolute returns over 12 months	Rating Distribution
Buy	15%	210
Hold	<15% and >-5%	59
Reduce	<-5%	35

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Abneesh Roy

Head of Research Committee

Abneesh.Roy@nuvama.com
