

STAR HEALTH AND ALLIED INSURANCE

RESULT UPDATE

KEY DATA

Rating	BUY
Sector relative	Neutral
Price (INR)	427
12 month price target (INR)	490
52 Week High/Low	648/327
Market cap (INR bn/USD bn)	251/2.9
Free float (%)	36.6
Avg. daily value traded (INR mn)	735.3

SHAREHOLDING PATTERN

	Jun-25	Mar-25	Dec-24
Promoter	58.04%	57.67%	57.68%
FII	13.89%	18.69%	17.51%
DII	21.08%	15.44%	16.49%
Pledge	0%	0%	0%

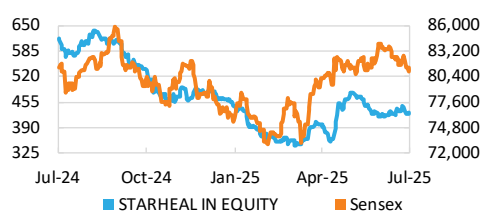
FINANCIALS

	(INR mn)			
Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
GDPI	167,162	179,565	210,316	239,826
NEP	148,222	167,293	185,891	210,456
U/W profit/(loss)	(3,785)	(793)	139	1,503
PAT	6,459	8,519	11,457	13,842
EPS Growth (%)	(23.9)	31.9	34.5	20.8
Combined ratio (%)	101.1	99.7	98.1	97.2
RoAE (%)	9.7	11.8	14.0	14.7
Adj. P/E (x)	39.1	29.7	22.0	18.3
P/ABV (x)	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.4

CHANGE IN ESTIMATES

	Revised estimates		% Revision	
Year to March	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E
NEP	171,429	197,277	(1.0)	(1.5)
CoR	99.7	98.1	42bp	30bp
U/w profit	(793)	139	192.1	(77.0)
APAT	8,519	11,457	(3.2)	(2.6)

PRICE PERFORMANCE



Encouraging growth in fresh business

Adjusted for 1/n accounting, Q1 GWP grew 13.2% YoY (reported growth just 3.4% YoY). Loss ratios stayed elevated at 69.5% (+197bp YoY/-31bp QoQ) as price hikes are yet to flow in. CoR rose sharply by 301bp YoY to 102.2% (adjusted for 1/n, CoR up 160bp YoY to 100.8%). Underwriting profit plunged 48.9% YoY to INR717mn (Ind-AS: INR160mn) while APAT came in at INR2.6bn (Ind-AS: INR4.38bn).

We expect corrective actions in the form of selective underwriting and repricing along with scale benefits to reduce CoRs. We are tweaking estimates leading to FY26E/27E/28E APAT decline of 3.2%/2.6%/4% and TP of INR490 (from INR500). At the CMP, the stock is trading at a cheap FY27E P/E of 21.3x and P/investment book of 1.1x; retain 'BUY'.

Fresh business growth sustains

Q1 GWP grew 3.7% YoY/-29.8% QoQ to INR36.1bn. Adjusted for 1/n accounting, Q1 GWP grew 13.2% YoY versus reported growth of just 3.4%. NEP improved 11.9% YoY to INR39.3bn as 1/n accounting does not affect earned premium. We estimate fresh business in GWP mix improved to 24.8% in Q1FY26 (-18bp YoY/134bp QoQ). Management said less than 15% of fresh business is port-in—indicating lower loss ratios in the waiting period. They also said the long-term business as a proportion of fresh business is high at 30%, which we believe shall lead to enhanced renewal rates over FY27E–29E. In Q1FY26, agency/digital business clocked fresh business growth of 16%/73% YoY (FY25: 16% for agency). Management said directly sourced business in digital channel was 70%—this shall lead to lower acquisition costs in future.

Expenses and investment income surge

In Q1FY26, loss ratios continued to stay elevated at 69.5% (97bp YoY/-31bp QoQ) as management clarified that customers continue to increasingly use insurance. Moreover, management said that for Q1FY26, retail/group claim ratio was 68.5%/85.1% (+160bp/710bp YoY). Management has hiked prices by 8–12% in ~65% of the retail portfolio and is now more selective in underwriting group business. The impact of these measures is likely to flow in net earned premium and reduce loss ratios in H2FY26E. Commission ratio rose 116bp YoY to 14.7% mainly due to a change to 1/n accounting and higher share of sale of long-term policy in fresh business. For Q1FY26, CoR increased 301bp YoY to 102.2% (adjusted for 1/n, CoR increased 160bp YoY to 100.8%). Strong markets in Q1 supported investment income (-0.3% YoY/3.4% QoQ) to INR2.95bn at yield of 6.5% (-102bp YoY) despite the company not booking capital gains in Q1 (~17% of investment book is non-fixed income). This resulted in APAT of INR2.6bn (-17.7% YoY).

Financials

Year to March	Q1FY26	Q1FY25	% Change	Q4FY25	% Change
NEP	39,383	35,203	7.9	37,983	3.7
Combined ratio(%)	102.2	99.2	301bp	99.2	297bp
Underwriting profit/(loss)	717	1,404	(48.9)	(2752)	NM
APAT	2,625	3,189	(17.7)	5	NM

Financial Statements

Income Statement (INR mn)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
GDPI	167,162	179,565	210,316	239,826
GWP	167,814	180,078	210,316	225,436
Net earned premium (NEP)	148,222	167,293	185,891	210,456
Total claims incurred	104,194	115,388	126,963	142,899
Total commission	22,407	25,291	29,000	33,365
Operating expenses	25,406	27,407	29,789	32,688
Underwriting profit/(loss)	(3,785)	(793)	139	1,503
Investment income	12,853	12,730	15,732	17,564
Provisions (Other than taxation)	2	0	16	18
Expenses of management	510	190	200	210
Operating profit	8,556	11,747	15,655	18,840
Interest expense	0	400	400	400
Other income	55	52	55	57
Profit before tax	8,611	11,399	15,310	18,498
Taxes	2,152	2,881	3,854	4,656
APAT	6,459	8,519	11,457	13,842
Extraordinary	0	0	0	0
RPAT	6,459	8,519	11,457	13,842

Key Ratios (%)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Growth				
GDPI growth	9.6	7.4	17.1	14.0
GWP growth	10.0	7.3	16.8	7.2
NEP growth	14.6	12.9	11.1	13.2
Operating profit growth	(23.9)	32.6	34.4	20.9
APAT growth	(23.6)	31.9	34.5	20.8
FDEPS growth	(23.9)	31.9	34.5	20.8
Efficiency				
Claims ratio	70.3	69.0	68.3	67.9
Commission ratio	14.4	14.8	14.7	14.8
Expenses ratio	16.7	16.1	15.2	14.6
Combined ratio	101.1	99.7	98.1	97.2
Underwriting profit margin (%)	(2.6)	(0.5)	0.1	0.7
Investment yield	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4
Investment Income/NEP (%)	8.7	7.6	8.5	8.3
EBIT margin	5.8	7.0	8.4	9.0
PAT margin	4.4	5.1	6.2	6.6
ROE	9.5	11.3	13.4	14.1
Adjusted ROE	9.7	11.8	14.0	14.7
Claims os/ NEP (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Technical reserves/NEP (x)	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7
Investment leverage (x)	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4

Source: Company and Nuvama estimates

Balance Sheet (INR mn)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Share capital	5,878	5,878	5,878	5,878
Reserve and surplus	64,359	72,517	83,974	97,816
Total shareholders fund	75,821	84,124	95,740	109,759
Fair value change account	885	1,029	1,188	1,366
Borrowings	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700
Total source of funds	207,846	224,685	252,376	287,438
Investments	178,984	199,667	224,092	255,400
Net block	1,849	2,234	2,361	2,583
Goodwill	0	0	0	0
Deferred tax asset	3,512	800	800	800
Cash & bank balance	6,684	5,521	6,134	6,945
Advances & other assets	16,817	16,463	18,989	21,710
Total current assets	23,501	21,984	25,123	28,655
Current liabilities	26,480	32,725	36,141	40,450
Provisions	90,814	95,143	106,529	121,510
Total current liabilities	132,025	140,561	156,636	177,679
Net current assets	23,501	21,984	25,123	28,655
Total assets	207,846	224,685	252,376	287,438

Per Share Data

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
FDEPS (INR/sh)	10.9	14.3	19.3	23.3
DPS (INR/sh)	0	0	0	0
BV (INR/sh)	120.6	134.7	154.4	178.1

Valuation at CMP

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
P/GWP	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.0
Adj. P/E	39.1	29.7	22.0	18.3
Adj. P/E (Adj for FV change)	38.5	28.4	21.3	17.6
P/ABV	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.4
Dividend Yield (%)	0	0	0	0

Valuation at TP

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
P/GWP	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.2
Adj. P/E	45.1	34.2	25.4	21.0
Adj. P/E (Adj for FV change)	44.4	32.8	24.5	20.3
P/ABV	4.1	3.7	3.2	2.8
Dividend Yield (%)	0	0	0	0

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Exhibit 1: NEP expands 11.9% YoY; loss ratio increases 197bp YoY to 69.5% dragging profits down 17.7% YoY

(INR mn)	Q1FY26	Q1FY25	YoY(%/bp)	Q4FY25	QoQ(%/ bp)	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
NWP	34,574	31,702	9.1	48,196	(28.3)	155,252	171,429	197,277	225,436
NEP	39,383	35,203	11.9	37,983	3.7	148,222	167,293	185,891	210,456
Claims Incurred (net)	27,390	23,789	15.1	26,301	4.1	104,194	(115,388)	(126,963)	(142,899)
Commission (net)	5,078	4,288	18.4	7,598	(33.2)	22,407	(25,291)	(29,000)	(33,365)
Operating expenses	6,197	5,722	8.3	6,836	(9.3)	25,406	(27,407)	(29,789)	(32,688)
Premium deficiency	-	-	NM	-	NM	-	-	-	-
Underwriting profit/(loss)	717	1,404	(48.9)	(2,752)	(126.1)	(3,785)	(793)	139	1,503
Investment Income	2,950	2,958	(0.3)	2,853	3.4	12,853	12,730	15,732	17,564
Provisions (Other than taxation)	-	0	(100.0)	4	(100.0)	5	-	(16)	(18)
Shareholders' expenses	152	109	39.0	146	3.6	508	(190)	(200)	(210)
Operating profits	3,515	4,252	(17.3)	(49)	NM	8,556	11,747	15,655	18,840
Interest Expense	-	-	NM	-	NM	-	(400)	(400)	(400)
Other income	5	10	(49.5)	41	(87.7)	55	52	55	57
PBT	3,520	4,262	(17.4)	(9)	NM	8,611	11,399	15,310	18,498
Tax	895	1,072	(16.5)	(14)	NM	2,152	(2,881)	(3,854)	(4,656)
APAT	2,625	3,189	(17.7)	5	NM	6,459	8,519	11,457	13,842
Extraordinary	-	-	NM	-	NM	-	-	-	-
RPAT	2,625	3,189	(17.7)	5	NM	6,459	8,519	11,457	13,842
Ratios (%)									
Claims Ratio	69.5	67.6	197bp	69.2	31bp	70.3	69.0	68.3	67.9
Commission Ratio	14.7	13.5	116bp	15.8	(108)bp	14.4	14.8	14.7	14.8
Expense Ratio	17.9	18.1	(13)bp	14.2	374bp	16.4	16.0	15.1	14.5
Combined Ratio	102.2	99.2	301bp	99.2	297bp	101.1	99.7	98.1	97.2

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 2: Retail health GWP expands 16.2% YoY to INR37.1bn despite 1/n recognition

	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26	YoY (%) / bp	QoQ (%) / bp
GWP (INR bn):							
Retail	31.9	39.1	36.0	47.8	37.1	16.2	(22.4)
Group	3.1	3.9	2.0	3.6	(1.0)	(132.8)	(128.2)
PA	-	-	-	-	-	NM	NM
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	NM	NM
Re-insurance inward	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	-
Total GWP	35.0	43.0	38.4	51.4	36.1	3.0	(29.8)
GWP Mix (%)							
Retail	91.1	90.9	93.8	93.0	102.8	1,167.3	981.6
Group	8.9	9.1	5.2	7.0	(2.8)	(1,167.3)	(981.6)
PA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Re-insurance inward	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-
Total	100	100	100	100	100.0	-	(0.0)

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

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Exhibit 3: Individual agents channel contributes 82.0% (up 200bp YoY/flat QoQ) to GWP

	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26	YoY(%/bp)	QoQ(%/bp)
Channel mix (%)							
Individual Agents	80.0	81.0	85.3	82.0	82.0	200bp	0bp
Banca	8	8	5.2	7.0	7.0	(100)bp	0bp
Corporate	5	9	(3.0)	4.0	2.0	(300)bp	(200)bp
Digital	7	2	12.5	7.0	9.0	200bp	200bp
Total	100	100	100	100	100.00		
Channel mix (INR bn)							
Individual Agents	28.0	34.7	32.4	42.1	29.6	5.6	(29.8)
Banca	2.8	3.4	2.0	3.6	2.5	(9.9)	(29.8)
Corporate	1.8	4.0	(1.1)	2.1	0.7	(58.8)	(64.9)
Digital	2.5	0.9	4.8	3.6	3.2	32.4	(9.8)
Total	35.0	43.0	38.0	51.4	36.1	3.0	(29.8)

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 4: Analytical ratios

Analytical ratios	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26	YoY(%/bp)	QoQ(%/bp)
Net Retention Ratio (%)	91.2	90.9	93.8	93.8	95.9	469bp	209bp
Net Commission Ratio (%)	13.5	13.8	14.1	15.8	14.7	116bp	(107)bp
EOM to GDPI Ratio (%)	32.2	30.9	31.8	30.0	32.9	71bp	291bp
EOM to NWP Ratio (%)	31.6	30.2	31.8	30.0	32.6	104bp	266bp
Net Incurred Claims to NEP (%)	67.6	72.8	71.4	69.2	69.6	197bp	31bp
Combined Ratio (%)	99.1	103.0	103.3	99.2	102.2	302bp	297bp
Technical Reserves to net premium ratio (%)	286.0	242.0	268.0	219.0	290.0	400bp	7,100bp
Underwriting balance ratio (%)	4.0	(5.2)	(1.3)	(7.2)	1.8	(218)bp	906bp
Operating Profit Ratio (%)	8.9	0.4	4.0	(2.3)	6.3	(255)bp	860bp
Liquid Assets to liabilities ratio (%)	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	31bp	10bp
Net earning ratio (%)	10.1	2.8	6.0	0.0	7.6	(247)bp	758bp
Return on net worth ratio (%)	4.8	1.6	3.1	0.0	3.6	(119)bp	359bp

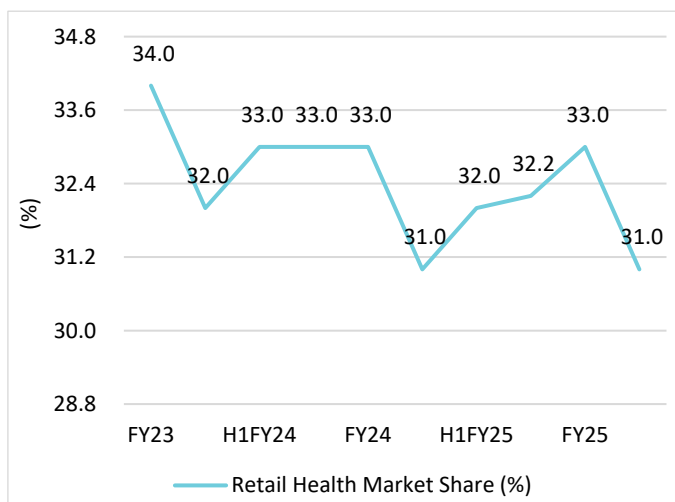
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 5: Operational metrics

Operational information	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26	YoY(%/bp)	QoQ(%/bp)
Number of agents (in mn)	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	9.9	1.8
Sponsored Health Agency Force	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	11.5	1.6
Number of hospitals in network (in actual number)	14.3	14.4	14.3	NA	NA		
Branch Network	887.0	902.0	910.0	913.0	914	3.0	0.1

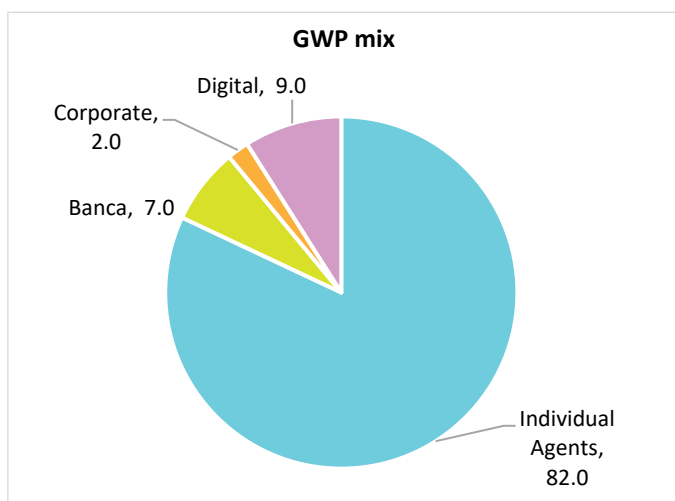
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 6: Retail health market share declines QoQ to 31%



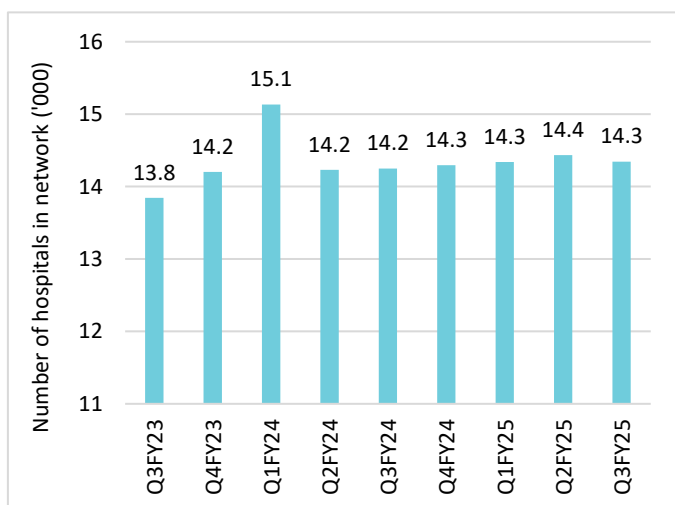
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 8: Distribution mix dominated by agency channel



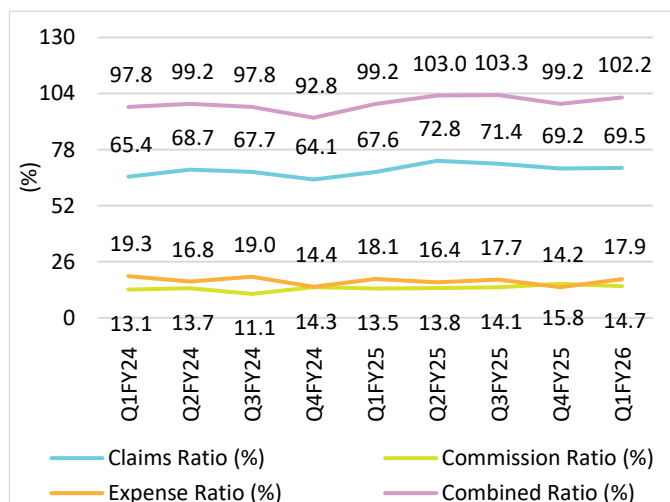
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 10: Hospital network at 14.4k



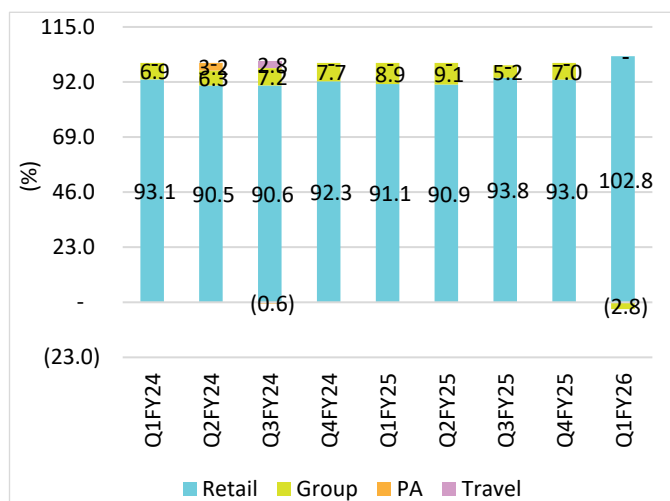
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 7: Combined ratio increases 301bp YoY to 102.2%



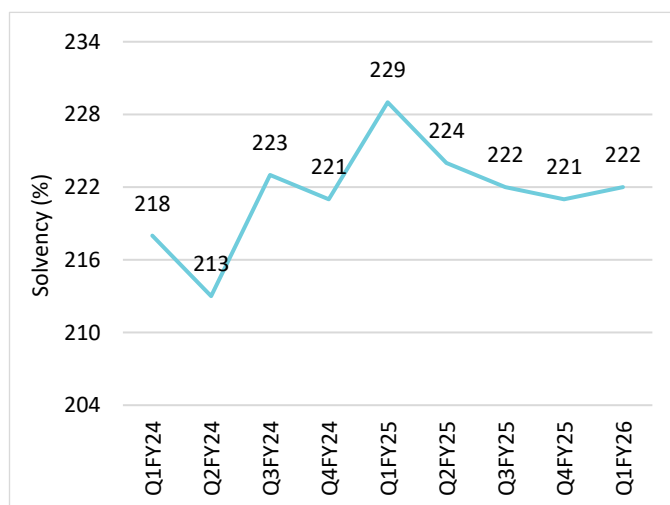
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 9: Share of retail increases



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 11: Solvency ratio falls 700bp YoY to 222%



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 12: Change in estimate

	Earlier			Revised			Change (%/bps)		
(INR mn)	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net written premium	173,246	200,185	228,138	171,429	197,277	225,436	(1.0)	(1.5)	(1.2)
Net earned premium	168,422	188,237	213,272	167,293	185,891	210,456	(0.7)	(1.2)	(1.3)
COR (%)	99.3	97.8	97.0	99.7	98.1	97.2	42bps	30bps	20bps
Underwriting profits	(272)	604	2,072	(793)	139	1,503	192.1	(77.0)	(27.4)
Investment book	200,825	226,497	258,336	199,667	224,092	255,400	(0.6)	(1.1)	(1.1)
APAT	8,804	11,764	14,425	8,519	11,457	13,842	(3.2)	(2.6)	(4.0)
EPS	14.8	19.8	24.3	14.3	19.3	23.3	(3.2)	(2.6)	(4.0)
ROE (%)	11.7	13.7	14.6	11.3	13.4	14.1	(36)bp	(29)bp	(46)bp
Target Price (INR)	500			490			(2.0)		
Rating	BUY			BUY					

Source: Nuvama Research

Q1FY26 conference call: Key highlights

Retail health: GWP grew 18% YoY to INR36.7bn, driven by 25% growth in fresh retail premiums and a renewal persistency of 98% by value. Retail health now contributes 94% of the total portfolio, up from 90% last year.

Market share: STARHEAL maintained its leadership with a 31% market share in the retail health insurance segment even as the base expanded. Fresh retail NOPs (number of policies) grew 8% YoY and overall NOPs rose 5%, indicating balanced volume and value growth.

Digital channel: The digital channel grew rapidly, contributing 20% of new business compared with 12% last year. New digital business grew 73% YoY. Total 70% of business is digital direct, whereas 30% is digital partner.

Agency channel: The agency channel accounted for 82% of total GWP in Q1FY26 and grew 16% YoY. Agent productivity rose 13% and the total agent base expanded by 14,000 to 0.79mn, the highest in the industry. Portability share was consciously kept low at 10% to focus on quality growth.

New products: New products such as Super Star and Health Assure made up 80% of the new business. The Super Star product alone crossed INR10bn in GWP within ten months, making it one of the fastest-growing products in the industry.

Strategic pricing: The company has transitioned to zonal and risk-based pricing models. A discount-based pricing model (e.g. on the Family Health Optima product) has been adopted to balance fairness between claimants and non-claimants. Currently, about 30% of the book has migrated to this pricing model.

Profitability: Q1FY26 IFRS PAT was INR 4.38bn. Investment income rose to INR5.86bn from INR3.88bn in Q1FY25. The company accounted INR2.92bn of MTM gains in its investment income under IFRS accounting. The MTM gain in its investment income has been applied only to non-debt portfolio, which is now 17.5% of its investment book. On the debt book, its MTM gains for the quarter are ~INR2bn, which is not considered under IFRS reporting. Its portfolio has increased allocation to equities and alternative assets (17.5% of AUM), aiming for better long-term yields despite short-term pressure on investment income from falling interest rates.

Loss ratio: Under IFRS, CoR was 99.6% in Q1, up from 99.2% a year ago. Despite past price hikes covering 65% of the portfolio, the claim ratio rose marginally YoY to 69.5%, due to both frequency and severity, though management expects gradual improvement.

Operational efficiency: The IFRS expense ratio reduced by 100bp YoY to 30.1%. STARHEAL highlighted better efficiency through technology investments, disciplined hiring, and improved productivity, especially in the digital and tele-calling segments.

Banca and group business: Bank assurance contributed 7% of GWP, with a shift toward retail and benefit plans (92% of fresh business versus 74% last year). Group business was only 2% of the mix as the company continues to exit large and mid-sized group accounts and focus on SME segments.

Long-term business: New retail policies formed 30% of new business volume and 8% of overall retail book, helping enhance persistency and customer stickiness. Management believes this will lead to improvement in CoR going forward.

FY28 guidance: While the INR25bn IFRS PAT target by FY28 remains intact, assumptions for GWP growth to INR300bn may be moderated due to the exit from corporate business. The PAT goal is likely to be supported 80% by investment income and 20% by underwriting profits.

Reinsurance: Management clarified that it has exited its earlier long-term reinsurance treaty and now only retains the mandatory obligatory cession of around 4–5%. The company explained that this change, along with the adoption of IFRS accounting standards, has influenced the volatility in reinsurance ceded figures and affected how commission expenses are reported.

Underwriting: The company explained that the underwriting profits under IFRS were lower primarily due to the amortisation of acquisition costs related to strong new business growth in previous quarters. Since IFRS recognises revenue and expenses over the policy period (rather than upfront), the full benefit of the premium earned will reflect in subsequent quarters, whereas acquisition costs begin to impact immediately. As a result, the timing mismatch led to lower underwriting profit in the current quarter under IFRS.

Company Description

STARHEAL has one of the largest pan-India distribution networks—913 health insurance branches spread across 26 states and four union territories as on March 31, 2025. Its product suite consists of a range of flexible and comprehensive coverage options, primarily for retail health, group health, personal accident and overseas travel segments.

Star Health & Allied Insurance Co Ltd. is the largest private standalone health insurance company in India headquartered in Chennai. It has been providing innovative services and products in health, personal accident and overseas & domestic travel insurance aligned with the needs of the Indian market. The company also enjoys the largest retail health insurance share based on GWP in the country. In FY25, STARHEAL's retail health market share stood at 32.6%.

Key Risks

- Any significant slowdown in growth.
- Intensifying competition resulting in loss of market share or increased loss/combined ratios
- Exit of key management personnel.
- Any regulation flux that may further stifle easy pricing change.
- Several financial investors and pre-IPO investors, who may look to exit from time to time, hold STARHEALTH's shares. This may result in a constant supply of shares—thereby keeping its price depressed.

Additional Data

Management

MD & CEO	Anand Roy
CFO	Nilesh Kambli
COO	Amitabh Jain
Auditor	T R Chadha & Co LLP and MSKA & Associates

Holdings – Top 10*

	% Holding		% Holding
ICICI Prudential	4.79	Vanguard group	1.53
ICICI Prudential	4.60	Government pens	1.28
HDFC AMC	3.97	Norges Bank	1.28
WF Asian smalle	2.48	MIO Star	1.15
Massachusetts I	1.66	WF Asian Reconn	1.00

*Latest public data

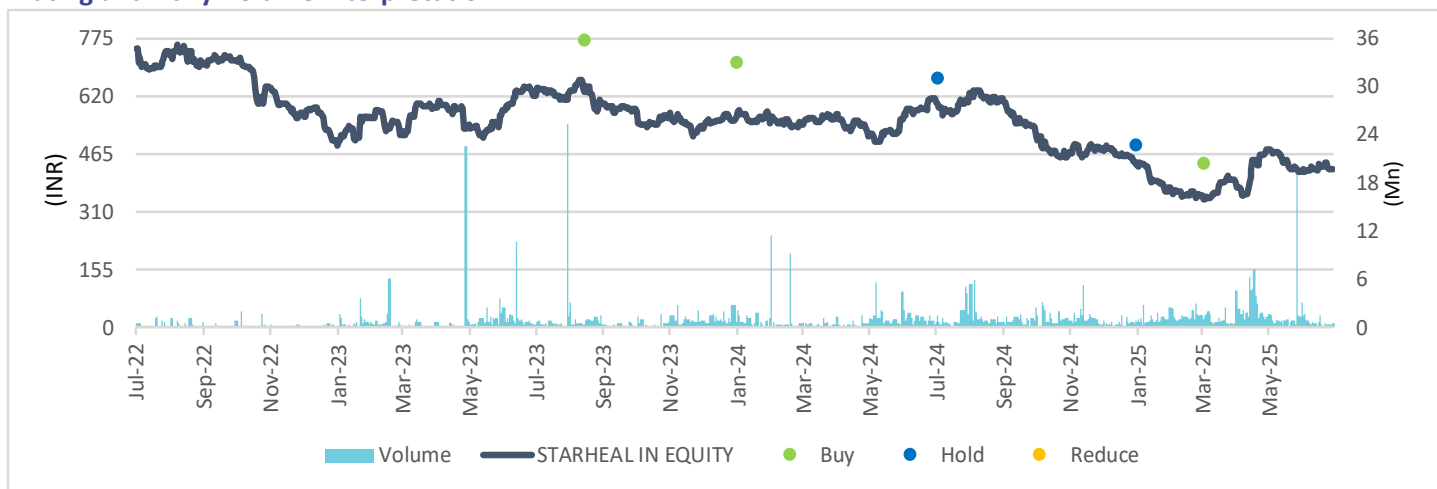
Recent Company Research

Date	Title	Price	Reco
30-Apr-25	Loss ratios disappoint; <i>Result Update</i>	399	Buy
01-Apr-25	Recalibration to improve CoRs; <i>Company Update</i>	345	Buy
29-Jan-25	Loss ratios improve mildly; <i>Result Update</i>	463	Hold

Recent Sector Research

Date	Name of Co./Sector	Title
16-Jul-25	General Insurance	Jun-25: Growth in core segments slows; <i>Sector Update</i>
15-Jul-25	ICICI Lombard GI	Strong investment income drives beat; <i>Result Update</i>
07-Jul-25	General Insurance	Jun-25: Growth moderates; <i>Sector 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%	202
Hold	<15% and >-5%	66
Reduce	<-5%	36

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