

### **RESULT UPDATE**

#### **KEY DATA**

Rating	BUY
Sector relative	Neutral
Price (INR)	953
12 month price target (INR)	1,094
52 Week High/Low	1,364/620
Market cap (INR bn/USD bn)	64/0.7
Free float (%)	42.0
Avg. daily value traded (INR mn)	74.5

#### SHAREHOLDING PATTERN

	Jun-25	Mar-25	Dec-24
Promoter	55.32%	55.32%	55.32%
FII	12.44%	12.07%	12.51%
DII	24.26%	24.33%	24.70%
Pledge	0%	096	096

FINANCIALS (INR mn)				NR mn)
Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue	40,986	47,134	54,204	62,335
EBITDA	3,418	4,308	5,388	6,320
Adjusted profit	2,015	2,563	3,228	3,779
Diluted EPS (INR)	30.1	38.3	48.2	56.4
EPS growth (%)	11.6	27.2	26.0	17.1
RoAE (%)	11.8	13.3	14.6	14.7
P/E (x)	31.7	24.9	19.8	16.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	15.9	13.4	10.4	8.6
Dividend yield (%)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

### **CHANGE IN ESTIMATES**

	Revised e	stimates % Revision		sion
Year to March	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	54,204	62,335	0%	0%
EBITDA	5,388	6,320	0%	0%
Adjusted profit	2,563	3,228	-1%	-2%
Diluted EPS (INR)	38.3	48.2	-1%	-2%

#### PRICE PERFORMANCE



# **Healthy order intake**

Ahluwalia Contracts (ACIL) posted Q1FY26 top line of INR10bn, up 9% YoY. EBITDA margin at 8.6% jumped ~200bp YoY while PAT surged 67% YoY. YTD FY26 order wins at ~INR39bn have been robust, taking the order book to ~INR166bn (book-to-bill at 4x). The company is also L1 in projects worth ~INR18bn. Net debt-to-equity stays at a comfortable (0.5)x with working capital cycle at 35 days. Management is targeting 15–20% revenue growth and double-digit margins in FY26E.

Robust order intake, execution pickup in large projects and improvement in margin remain key positives for the company. Maintain 'BUY' with a revised target price of INR1,094 (earlier INR1,080) based on a valuation rollover to Q1FY28E (22x P/E).

#### Revenue and margins improve YoY

ACIL's Q1FY26 revenue rose 9% YoY (fell 17% QoQ) to INR10bn. EBITDA margin increased ~200bp YoY (down 160bp QoQ) to 8.6% as: i) slow-moving orders neared completion; ii) execution of high-margin orders commenced; and iii) approvals were received for certain large orders. Adjusted PAT soared 67% YoY (fell 39% QoQ). The company has guided for 15–20% YoY growth in top line for FY26E/27E.

### Steady ramp up in execution on key projects

The company has received some clearances on the CSMT project during the quarter. Management expects a peak monthly revenue run rate of ~INR600-700mn in this project and expects to clock ~INR4bn revenue in FY26E. Work on the Gems and Jewellery Park project should commence in Q3FY26E.

### Net cash status maintained

Net cash decreased QoQ to ~INR9.2bn as the working capital cycle deteriorated to 35 days (from 31 days in Q4FY25). Net debt-to-equity remains at (0.5)x.

#### Order book remains robust

The company ended the quarter with an order book of ~INR166bn (book-to-bill of 4x). Management is targeting INR80bn in orders in FY26E. ACIL has already won projects worth ~INR39bn in the current fiscal and is L1 in ~INR18bn projects. Given ~41% of the order book is emanating from the residential segment, the company has slowed down on taking new orders in this segment and is now focusing on retail, commercial and institutional segments. While competition for public sector orders remains high, ACIL is looking to bid for marquee large-sized government jobs where margins are superior. Item-rate contracts are ~55% of the order book while EPC contracts comprise the balance.

## **Financials**

Year to March	Q1FY26	Q1FY25	% Change	Q4FY25	% Change
Net Revenue	10,049	9,193	9.3	12,158	(17.4)
EBITDA	863	605	42.7	1,236	(30.2)
Adjusted Profit	511	306	67.0	832	(38.5)
Diluted EPS (INR)	7.6	4.6	67.0	12.4	(38.5)

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# **Financial Statements**

### Income Statement (INR mn)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Total operating income	40,986	47,134	54,204	62,335
Gross profit	7,787	9,144	10,895	12,591
Employee costs	3,516	3,855	4,379	4,973
Other expenses	853	981	1,128	1,298
EBITDA	3,418	4,308	5,388	6,320
Depreciation	666	978	1,296	1,467
Less: Interest expense	581	518	458	558
Add: Other income	554	615	682	757
Profit before tax	2,724	3,426	4,316	5,052
Prov for tax	709	863	1,088	1,273
Less: Other adj	0	0	0	0
Reported profit	2,015	2,563	3,228	3,779
Less: Excp.item (net)	0	0	0	0
Adjusted profit	2,015	2,563	3,228	3,779
Diluted shares o/s	67	67	67	67
Adjusted diluted EPS	30.1	38.3	48.2	56.4
DPS (INR)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Tax rate (%)	26.0	25.2	25.2	25.2

### **Balance Sheet (INR mn)**

Dalance Sheet (mm m	,			
Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Share capital	134	134	134	134
Reserves	17,867	20,430	23,658	27,437
Shareholders funds	18,001	20,564	23,792	27,571
Minority interest	0	0	0	0
Borrowings	140	140	140	140
Trade payables	8,472	9,321	11,141	13,452
Other liabs & prov	5,258	5,882	7,022	8,134
Total liabilities	36,720	40,757	46,945	54,149
Net block	4,489	8,517	9,228	9,767
Intangible assets	19	15	11	6
Capital WIP	116	69	69	69
Total fixed assets	4,624	8,601	9,308	9,842
Non current inv	63	63	63	63
Cash/cash equivalent	9,641	6,057	7,994	9,878
Sundry debtors	8,130	9,433	10,764	12,462
Loans & advances	8	10	11	13
Other assets	12,619	14,713	16,644	19,404
Total assets	36,720	40,757	46,945	54,149

## **Important Ratios (%)**

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Order intake (% YoY)	26.5	(11.5)	11.7	10.5
Book-to-bill ratio (x)	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0
Gross margin (%)	19.0	19.4	20.1	20.2
EBITDA margin (%)	8.3	9.1	9.9	10.1
Net profit margin (%)	4.9	5.4	6.0	6.1
Revenue growth (% YoY)	6.3	15.0	15.0	15.0
EBITDA growth (% YoY)	(12.0)	26.0	25.1	17.3
Adj. profit growth (%)	11.6	27.2	26.0	17.1

### Free Cash Flow (INR mn)

	,			
Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Reported profit	2,015	2,563	3,228	3,779
Add: Depreciation	666	978	1,296	1,467
Interest (net of tax)	430	388	343	418
Others	2,412	(4,729)	(1,513)	(3,139)
Less: Changes in WC	(1,434)	2,170	585	1,361
Operating cash flow	4,090	1,370	3,939	3,885
Less: Capex	1,905	4,955	2,002	2,002
Free cash flow	2,185	(3,585)	1,937	1,883

### Assumptions (%)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
GDP (YoY %)	6.0	6.2	7.0	7.0
Repo rate (%)	6.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
USD/INR (average)	84.0	82.0	81.0	81.0
Interest cost (%)	86.9	76.9	85.9	94.9
Employee cost (%)	157.8	187.6	219.3	251.9
Other exp. (%)	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.0
Other inc. (%)	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Dep. (% gr. block)	1,905.0	4,955.0	2,002.0	2,002.0
Effect. tax rate (%)	25.2	25.2	25.2	25.2

### **Key Ratios**

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
RoE (%)	11.8	13.3	14.6	14.7
RoCE (%)	19.1	20.3	21.4	21.7
Inventory days	36	36	36	36
Receivable days	71	68	68	68
Payable days	85	85	86	90
Working cap (% sales)	39.8	31.1	31.2	31.8
Gross debt/equity (x)	0	0	0	0
Net debt/equity (x)	(0.5)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.4)
Interest coverage (x)	4.7	6.4	8.9	8.7

### **Valuation Metrics**

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Diluted P/E (x)	31.7	24.9	19.8	16.9
Price/BV (x)	3.5	3.1	2.7	2.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	15.9	13.4	10.4	8.6
Dividend yield (%)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

# Source: Company and Nuvama estimates

### **Valuation Drivers**

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
EPS growth (%)	11.6	27.2	26.0	17.1
RoE (%)	11.8	13.3	14.6	14.7
EBITDA growth (%)	(12.0)	26.0	25.1	17.3
Payout ratio (%)	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.9

**Exhibit 1: Financial snapshot** 

Standalone (INR mn)	Q1FY26	Q1FY25	% YoY	Q4FY25	% QoQ	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue	10,049	9,193	9.3	12,158	(17.4)	40,986	47,134	54,204	62,335
Direct cost	8,056	7,549	6.7	9,718	(17.1)	33,199	37,990	43,310	49,744
Staff cost	911	809	12.6	932	(2.2)	3,516	3,855	4,379	4,973
Other expenditure	218	231	(5.5)	273	(19.9)	853	981	1,128	1,298
Total expenditure	9,186	8,589	7.0	10,922	(15.9)	37,568	42,826	48,817	56,015
EBITDA	863	605	42.7	1,236	(30.2)	3,418	4,308	5,388	6,320
Depreciation	207	150	38.2	171	21.5	666	978	1,296	1,467
EBIT	655	454	44.2	1,065	(38.5)	2,752	3,330	4,092	4,853
Less: Interest Expense	119	148	(19.1)	128	(7.0)	581	518	458	558
Add: Other income	159	108	47.1	180	(12.0)	554	615	682	757
Add: Prior period items	0	0	NA	0	NA	0	0	0	0
Add: Exceptional items	0	0	NA	0	NA	0	0	0	0
PBT	695	415	67.5	1,117	(37.8)	2,724	3,426	4,316	5,052
Less: Provision for Tax	184	109	68.9	286	(35.8)	709	863	1,088	1,273
Reported profit	511	306	67.0	832	(38.5)	2,015	2,563	3,228	3,779
Adjusted profit	511	306	67.0	832	(38.5)	2,015	2,563	3,228	3,779
Equity capital	134	134	0.0	134	0.0	134	134	134	134
No. of Diluted shares outstanding (mn)	67	67	0.0	67	0.0	67	67	67	67
Adjusted Diluted EPS	7.6	4.6	67.0	12.4	(38.5)	30.1	38.3	48.2	56.4
As % of net revenues			YoY bps		QoQ bps				
Direct cost	80.2	82.1	(193.8)	79.9	24.3	81.0	80.6	79.9	79.8
Other expenses	2.2	2.5	(34.1)	2.2	(6.8)	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
EBITDA	8.6	6.6	201.1	10.2	(158.1)	8.3	9.1	9.9	10.1
Adjusted profit	5.1	3.3	175.8	6.8	(175.4)	4.9	5.4	6.0	6.1
Tax rate	26.4	26.2	22.1	25.6	84.7	26.0	25.2	25.2	25.2

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

## **Guidance**

1. Revenue: 15–20% YoY growth in FY26E/27E

2. EBITDA margin: Double-digit margins in FY26E/27E

3. Order inflow: INR80bn in FY26E

4. Capex: INR5bn in FY26E and INR2bn in FY27E

# Order book rises sequentially

ACIL ended Q1FY26 with an order book of  $\sim$ INR166bn ( $\sim$ INR158bn at end-Q4FY25) and book-to-bill of 4x.

YTD order wins were ~INR39bn.

**Exhibit 2: Major order-wins in YTD FY26** 

Date	Client	Segment	Value (in mn)	Project details
Jul-25	DLF	Residential	20,890	Civil and structure works Including rough finishing works for "The Dahlias" DLF5, Gurugram". Completion in 40 months
Jun-25	Whiteland Corporation Pvt ltd	Residential	8,210	Construction of "Urban Resort" 7 numbers of residential towers at Sector-103, Gurugram.
Jun-25	Nestled Haven Estates Pvt Ltd & Maia Estates Pvt Ltd	Residential	2,826	Civil structure and architectural finishing work at Bengaluru - 560024 of "The Beacon"
Apr-25	Godrej Properties Ltd	Residential	3,965	Core and shell works of sub and super structure for all towers (T1,T2,T3 and T4) including NTA, Club & Retail, Boundary Wall, RWH, Waterproofing and LPS works at Godrej Riverine, Sector-44, Noida, Uttar Pradesh
	Other projects		3,000	
	Total Order FY26		38,891	

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Currently, the company is L1 in two projects worth ~INR18bn. One of this is a University of Bhubaneshwar project worth ~INR10bn and the other is an MIDC project. Management expects to receive LoAs for both projects by end-Q2FY26. Including L1 orders, ACIL has already won ~INR57bn projects.

Over the last year, the company has started focusing on private sector. Hence, itemrate contracts now constitute 55% of the total order book while EPC projects comprise 45% share.

Exhibit 3: Revenue visibility remains high

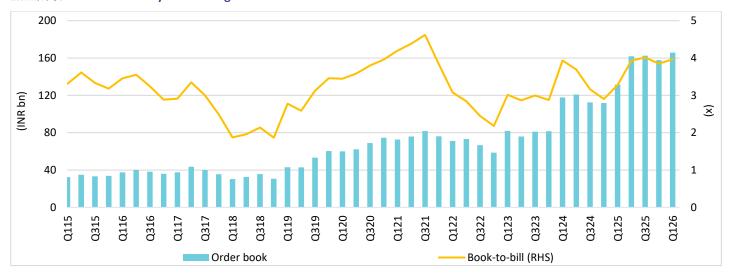
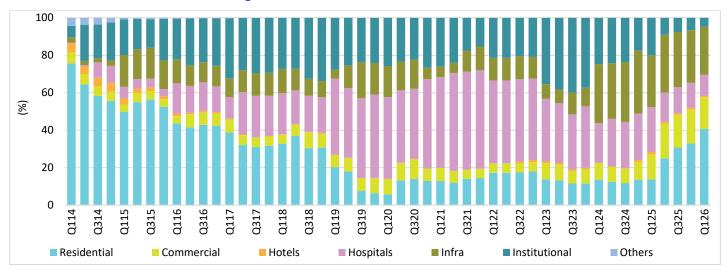


Exhibit 4: Residential and infrastructure segments contribute two-thirds to overall order book

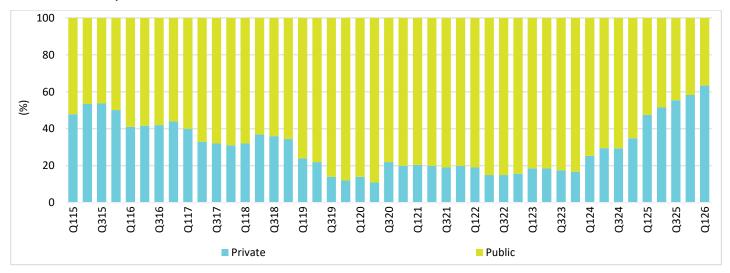


Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Public sector projects comprise ~37% of ACIL's order book (26.3% from the central government, ~1.6% from foreign governments and the balance from the state government); the balance comes from the private sector.

Going ahead, the company plans to maintain a 60:40 split between private and public sector clients in the order book as margins in the private sector are superior.

Exhibit 5: Share of public sector orders has come down



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

The northern region constitutes  $^{\sim}42\%$  of the company's order book while the western region comprises 34%. The share of the eastern region remained steady QoQ at 18%.

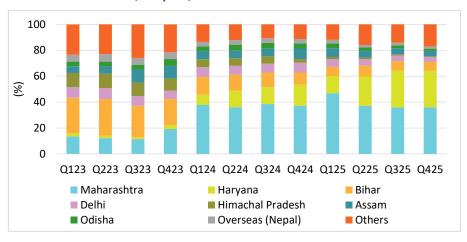
Exhibit 6: Well-diversified order book across geographies



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

By states, the company has higher value of orders under execution from Maharashtra (33%), followed by Haryana (30%) along with UP and Bihar (6–7% each) together comprising more than three—fourths of the total order book.

Exhibit 7: Maharashtra, Haryana, UP and Bihar account for ~76% of order book

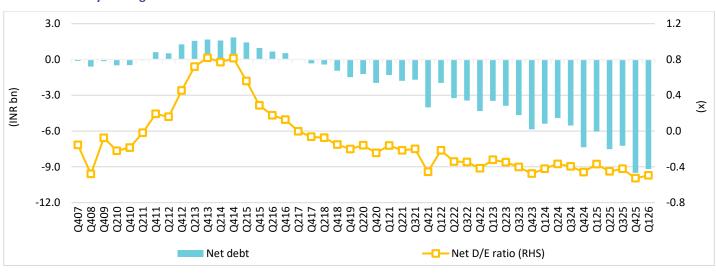


# Maintains net cash position

Net cash was ~INR9.2bn (~INR9.5bn as on end-Q4FY25).

Leverage remains comfortable with net debt-to-equity at negative 0.5x.

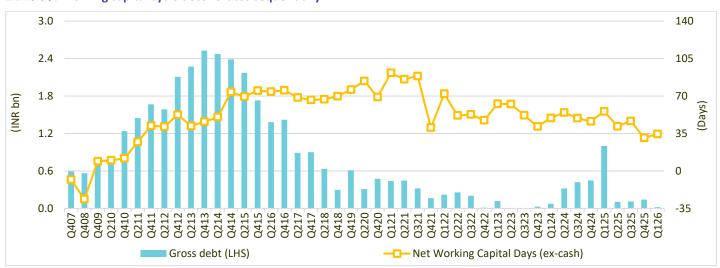
**Exhibit 8: Healthy leverage levels** 



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

The working capital cycle increased QoQ to 35 days (31 days in Q4FY25).

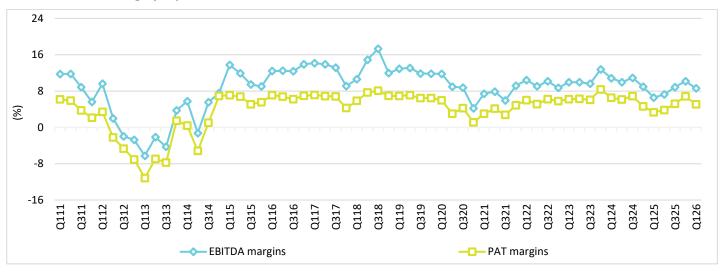
**Exhibit 9: Working capital cycle deteriorates sequentially** 



## Q1FY26 conference call highlights

1. **EBITDA margin**: The EBITDA margin increased ~200bp YoY (down 160bp QoQ) to 8.6% in Q1FY26 as most slow-moving orders are now nearing completion.

Exhibit 10: EBITDA margin jumps YoY in Q1FY26



- 2. Capex incurred during Q1FY26 was ~INR520mn.
- 3. Project updates
- CSMT redevelopment project The company has started execution here and received some clearances during the quarter. However, it is still awaiting some more clearances.
- **Gems and Jewellery project** ACIL expects to get notice to proceed in Q3FY26E, after which it will start the design work.
- Medical college in Bihar, Chhapra This project had slowed down earlier due
  to funding issues. However, now funds have started coming in; hence the pace
  of work has also picked up. Due to a change in scope, the project size has
  increased.

### **Company Description**

ACIL commenced operations in 1969 as an EPC company; it was incorporated as a private limited company in 1979 and got converted into a public limited company in 1990. It has carved a niche for itself as a specialised buildings contractor with strong execution track record.

#### Major segments for the company are:

**Commercial:** Construction of malls, shopping complexes and exhibition facilities; healthcare services, educational facilities and hospitality sector, corporate offices and buildings.

**Industrial facilities:** Construction of buildings for manufacturing facilities with structural steel work, sheeting, specialised flooring, external and internal finishes.

**Infrastructure:** Construction of airports, urban infrastructure, parking lots, metro stations, etc.

**Housing (residential):** Construction of buildings for group housing projects. ACIL executes turnkey projects, including civil, electrical, plumbing, fire-fighting, lifts, external and internal finishes and external landscaping.

#### **Investment Theme**

ACIL is a Delhi-based integrated construction company with more than four decades of experience in offering turnkey solutions in the building space. With a diversified services portfolio, it is one of the most reputable building contractors in India.

Singed by exposure to slow-moving/fixed price contracts from private sector clients during FY12–14, ACIL prudently sharpened focus on escalation clause-based orders from the public sector. Government projects ensure margin stability, payment security and greater confidence in execution timelines, all of which greatly de-risk the company's business model.

### **Key Risks**

Execution delays/payment risk in private sector projects: Liquidity issues have put the spanner in the works of many developers' projects, thereby slowing execution. In addition, the receivables cycle from such clients is high. Exposure to such developers can lead to delays in project execution/elongated payment cycle for ACIL.

# **Additional Data**

### Management

C & MD and CEO	Bikramjit Ahluwalia
Director	Shobhit Uppal
Director	Vikas Ahluwalia
CFO	Satbeer Singh
Auditor	Amod Agrawal & Associates

# **Recent Company Research**

Date	Title	Price	Reco
02-Jun-25	Execution and margins improve; Result Update	937	Buy
12-Feb-25	Battling execution challenges; Result Update	706	Buy
18-Nov-24	Execution improves; margins weak; Result Update	998	Buy

# Holdings – Top 10\*

	% Holding		% Holding
SBI small cap	8.14	Franklin	1.70
Nalanda India E	5.49	Canara Robeco M	1.29
Axis MF	4.81	ABSL	1.17
DSP MF	3.73	Bajaj Allianz	0.13
Nalanda India F	3.69	TIAAA	0.03

<sup>\*</sup>Latest public data

#### **Recent Sector Research**

Date	Name of Co./Sector	Title
14-Aug-25	PNC Infratech	Order inflows bring cheer ; Result Update
12-Aug-25	Ashoka Buildcon	Asset monetisation critical; <i>Result Update</i>
12-Aug-25	KNR Constructions	Order inflows improve; Result Update

# **Rating and Daily Volume Interpretation**



Source: Bloomberg, Nuvama research

### **Rating Rationale & Distribution: Nuvama Research**

8				
Rating	Expected absolute returns over 12 months	Rating Distribution		
Buy	15%	198		
Hold	<15% and >-5%	70		
Reduce	<-5%	36		

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