

HOLD TP: Rs 587 | ▲ 10%

AMBUJA CEMENTS

Cement

30 April 2025

On a strong growth path

- Strong volume-driven revenue growth, as realisation stays soft 3% YoY due to aggressive push in key markets
- Operating cost softened by ~5%/9%YoY/QoQ to Rs 4,003/tn, effectively helps EBITDA margin recovery to 18.3% vs 16.7% YoY.
- We value ACEM's consolidated business at 13x 1YF and revise our TP to Rs 587 (earlier Rs 579). Retain HOLD

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Vol. gains contributed by inorganic growth; realisations listless: ACEM reported Q4FY25 (standalone) revenue growth of a robust 19%/17% YoY/QoQ to Rs 56.8bn, due to muted realisations on volumes growing a healthy 22%/15% YoY/QoQ to 11.6mn tonnes. Realisation weakened by 3% YoY (+2% QoQ) to Rs 4,806/t. Consolidated revenue grew 11%/6% YoY/QoQ at Rs 98.9bn, as volumes increased 13%/flat YoY/QoQ to 18.7mnt. Blended cement formed 82% of the total trade volumes and premium product share was 29% of trade sales (5.3% YoY).

EBITDA margin on recovery mode: Operating cost softened by ~5/9%YoY/QoQ to Rs 4,003/t. Power and fuel costs (adjusted to raw material cost) increased by 4% YoY but fell 7%QoQ to Rs 2,492/t in Q4FY25 from Rs 2,402/t in Q3FY24, due to adverse raw material movement. Kiln Fuel cost reduced by 14% to Rs 1.58 per kcal, given a better fuel mix and higher pet-coke usage. Freight cost fell by 2% to Rs. 1,238/t with the primary lead distance falling by 15 km to 265 km. EBITDA margin recovered to 18.3% from 16.7% YoY. EBITDA/t was at Rs 895 vs Rs840 YoY.

Capacity expansion on track: With the acquisition of Penna Cement and Orient Cement, ACEM's cement capacity reached ~104mn tonnes (mnt) (FY25-end). The company is on track to reach 118 mnt by FY26 and 140 mnt by FY28, The Bhatapara clinker unit (4 mnt) and Sankrail/Sindri grinding units are expected to be commissioned by Q1FY26. Nine additional grinding units have been identified to achieve the 140 mnt target by FY28.

Maintain HOLD: We maintain EBITDA estimates for FY26/FY27 factoring health volume growth, though realisation growth may be challenging given the heightened competitive pressure in FY26/FY27. Full impact of inorganic growth (ORCMNT + Penna) transition is steady and will continue in near/medium term, pinching cost. We estimate revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGR of 17%/14%/13% over FY24-FY27. We value ACEM's consolidated business by assigning EV/EBITDA of 13x 1YF earnings and revise our TP to Rs 587 (from Rs 579). Our TP implies a replacement cost of Rs 10bn/mnt – ~33% premium to the industry. We retain HOLD.

Key changes

Target	Rating	
A	∢ ▶	

Ticker/Price	ACEM IN/Rs 534
Market cap	US\$ 12.4bn
Free float	37%
3M ADV	US\$ 17.3mn
52wk high/low	Rs 707/Rs 453
Promoter/FPI/DII	63%/11%/17%
52wk high/low	Rs 707/Rs 453

Source: NSE | Price as of 29 Apr 2025

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	3,50,448	4,58,726	5,25,628
EBITDA (Rs mn)	77,190	76,552	95,901
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	41,889	34,571	46,997
Adj. EPS (Rs)	18.0	14.0	19.1
Consensus EPS (Rs)	18.0	13.1	17.2
Adj. ROAE (%)	9.0	7.2	8.5
Adj. P/E (x)	29.7	38.0	28.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	13.0	14.9	12.5
Adj. EPS growth (%)	11.7	(21.9)	35.9

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research | P - Provisional

Stock performance



Source: NSE





Fig 1 - Earnings call highlights

	Q4FY25	Q3FY25	Our view
Volumes and realisations	Ambuja Cements (SA) volume in Q4FY25, was up 22% YoY. Growth was driven by a strong micro-market strategy, expansion of the ground network, and a high proportion of blended cement (82%) and premium products (29.1% of trade sales, up 5.3% YoY). Cement demand grew by 6.5-7% in Q4FY25. For the full FY25, industry growth was 4-5%, with Ambuja outperforming the industry. Share of premium cement increased to 29%, with a target of 35% by FY26.	Demand is expected to grow by 4-5% in FY25, further supported by the pro-infra and housing Budget 2025. As per management, ACEM will continue to grow at a faster pace than the industry. Blended cement formed 82% of total trade volumes, and premium product share as a percentage of trade sales was 26% (vs 22% YoY).	Contributions from Sanghi Industries (SIL) and the Penna Cement acquisition should help ACEM stay ahead of industry growth in FY26/FY27. Orient Cement and a clear capacity addition roadmap only confirms ACEM's firm volume growth in the medium term.
Margins & cost reduction	Continuous cost reduction initiatives undertaken by ACEM are visible. The operational cost for Q4FY25 was Rs 4,003/t. Kiln Fuel cost reduced by 14% to Rs 1.58 per kcal, due to a better fuel mix and increased use of pet-coke. Transportation costs also fell by 2% to Rs. 1,238/t. The primary lead distance was reduced by 15 km to 265 km, and the secondary lead distance by 2 km to 46 km. Direct dispatch to customers increased by 600 bps to 58%. ACEM achieved cost savings of Rs 150-175/t so far, with a cost target of Rs 3,650/t by FY28 (an additional Rs 300-325/t to be achieved by FY28).	Continuous decline in realisation impact on cost reduction initiatives undertaken by ACEM due to transition is visible. Power and fuel costs slid by 7% to Rs 1,260/t in Q3FY25 from Rs 1,353/t in Q3FY24. Freight cost declined by 6% to Rs 1,239/t YoY. The overall lead reduced by 4km (from 289km to 285km). Kiln fuel cost reduced by 10% to Rs 1.66/kcal from 1.84/kcal due to increased use of low cost imported pet-coke. Management has indicated a cost reduction target of Rs 530/t to Rs 3,650/t by FY28 with progressive Rs 100-150/t in cost savings every year.	For ACEM logistics cost rationalisation, prudent rail-road mix and warehouse optimisation will be the key as it improves further on the grinding units and its presence across additional regions. Energy cost benefits may be limited only to green energy usage due to the base effect. However, the transitionary phase is clearly hitting the core performance and will be watched keenly.
Capacity	Ambuja Cements has crossed 100 mnt of cement capacity. This includes the acquisition of Orient Cement, commissioning of the Farakka grinding unit, and debottlenecking of various plants. Sanghi's utilisation is at 40-45%, Penna's at 75-80% for clinker and 45-50% for cement, and Orient's at 60-75%. The company is on track to reach 118 mnt by FY26 and 140 mnt by FY28, with nine grinding units across regions. The Bhatapara clinker unit (4 mnt) and Sankrail/Sindri grinding units are expected to be commissioned by Q1FY26. Nine additional grinding units have been identified to achieve the 140 mnt target by FY28.	With the Sindri, Farakka and Sankrail grinding units in advanced stages of completion, acquisition of Orient Cements (OCL) transaction, operational capacities to reach 104mt by Q4FY25, 118mt by FY26 and 140mt target by FY28. Bhatapara Line 3 of clinker capacity is expected to be commissioned in Q4FY25 to supply the above GU. By Mar'25 ACEM expects Sanghi and Penna to reach a capacity utilisation of 80-85% from the current low levels of 40-50%.	Thus far, ACEM's growth has been driven by inorganic growth. Organic growth will testify to the company's execution capacity. Capacity expansion is on firm track and new capacities are likely to affirm growth even beyond FY27.



	Q4FY25	Q3FY25	Our view
Green energy	WHRS capacity is at 218 mw, the company is targeting 30% of power needs by FY28. 300 mw of RE capacity in place (200 MW solar and ~100 MW wind) and is targeting 1,000 MW by FY26. Green power share increased to 26% (from 15.6%), reducing power costs by Rs 0.20-0.25 per unit. ACEM managed to secure a 10-year supply of 5 bnt at a negative cost of Rs 400/t with Adani Power	Waste Heat Recovery System (WHRS) is currently at 197MW and targeted to reach 218MW by Q4FY25 as per management. The commissioned 200MW of solar power at Khavda will lower power costs in upcoming quarters, as a part of ACEM's ongoing investments in 1,000MW of renewable energy (RE). Green power share increased to 21.5% from 15.8% YoY	ACEM's initiatives to shift to alternative energy sources, have picked up pace. However, thermal power remains key for core clinker/cement production.
Сарех	Growth capex is planned to be Rs 60 bn; Efficiency capex Rs 25-30 bn for FY26, totalling approximately Rs 90 bn. Cash deployment in FY25 was to the tune of Rs 56bn for acquiring a 46% stake in Orient Cement, Rs 20bn for the open offer escrow. Cash and equivalents were at ~Rs 100 bn as of March 2025, approximately Rs 50 bn post-Orient acquisition.	ACEM spent Rs 62bn on capex in 9MFY25 and expects to end FY25 with a capex of Rs 90bn.	Capex guidance in line with the capacity growth ACEM has targeted.
Other relevant information	Acquired 367 mnt of limestone reserves in Q4FY25, bringing the total to over 9,000 mnt. Ordered 11 GPWIS rakes (all delivered) and 26 BCFC rakes (8 delivered) for clinker and fly ash transport. Initiatives like the Query-to-Lorry system and Cement Network Operating Centre (CNOC) are enhancing efficiency. Provisioned around Rs 2 bn for non-operational assets (Bargarh, Chaibasa and Wadi). Net worth increased to Rs 640 bn (up from Rs 500 bn YoY); the company remains debt-free with the highest credit rating in the industry.	Cash and cash equivalent was Rs 87.55bn by Q3FY25. 631mt of limestone reserves were acquired in Q3FY25 taking total reserves to 8.3bnt [Besides this, high quality limestone reserves of OCL adds to existing resources. Eight new RMC plants commissioned in Q3FY25, taking the total to 100. Merger of Penna and Sanghi Cement with Adani Cement is awaiting regulatory approvals and going forward management intends to reduce the number of entities.	Securing limestone reserves only adds comfort over the expansion drive staying seamless. ACEM's balance sheet is healthy despite strong capex plans as of now.

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Fig 2 – Key quarterly metrics

	Q4FY25	Q4FY24	YoY (%)	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	Q4FY25E	Deviation (%)
Volumes (mn mt)	11.6	9.5	22.1	10.1	14.9	10.61	9.38
Cement realisations (Rs/t)	4,898	5,032	(2.7)	4,806	1.9	5026	(2.54)
Operating costs (Rs/t)*	4,003	4,192	(4.5)	4,399	(9.0)	4229	(5.34)
EBITDA/t (Rs)	895	840	6.6	407	119.9	797	12.30

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

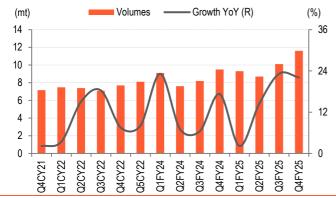
Fig 3 - Key quarterly metrics

(Rs mn)	Q4FY25	Q4FY24	YoY (%)	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	Q4FY25E	Deviation (%)
Net Sales	56,814	47,803	18.8	48,537	17.1	53,297	6.6
Expenditure							
Change in stock	811	879	(7.8)	1,233		64	
Raw material	7,149	4,075	75.5	7,552	(5.3)	7,891	(9.4)
Purchased products	11,501	8,988	28.0	9,532	20.7	10,043	14.5
Power & fuel	9,448	8,878	6.4	8,662	9.1	8,961	5.4
Freight	10,795	10,465	3.1	9,643	11.9	10,022	7.7
Employee costs	1,451	1,319	9.9	1,425	1.8	1,455	(0.3)
Other exp	5,278	5,221	1.1	6,377	(17.2)	6,409	(17.7)
Total Operating Expenses	46,432	39,825	16.6	44,426	4.5	44,844	3.5
EBITDA	10,382	7,978	30.1	4,111	152.5	8,452	22.8
EBITDA margin (%)	18.3	16.7	159bps	8.5	980bps	15.9	242bps
Other Income	4,421	1,768	150.0	2,546	73.6	2,210	100.0
Interest	(131)	338	(138.7)	355	(136.9)	375	(134.9)
Depreciation	2,964	2,440	21.5	2,529	17.2	2,650	11.8
PBT	11,970	6,968	71.8	3,774	217.2	7,637	56.7
Non-recurring items	0	(158)	0.0	7,066	0.0	0	NM
PBT (after non-recurring items)	11,970	7,126	68.0	(3,293)	(463.5)	7,637	56.7
Tax	2,681	1,487	80.3	1,508	77.8	1,833	0.0
Reported PAT	9,289	5,323	74.5	17,580	(47.2)	5,804	60.0
Adjusted PAT	9,289	5,481	69.5	2,266	310.0	5,804	60.0
NPM (%)	16.3	11.5	488bps	4.7	1168bps	10.9	546bps
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	4.7	2.8	69.5	1.1	310.0	2.9	60.0

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

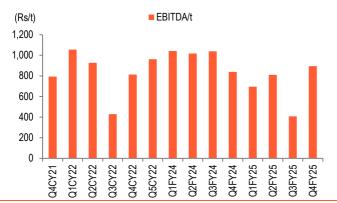


Fig 4 – Volume growth driven by aggressive push across regions with focus on East



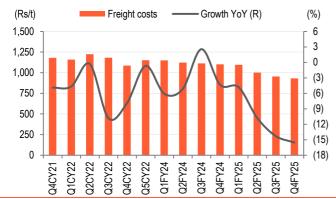
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – EBITDA/t still stays far below YoY but reverses QoQ



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 – Freight cost likely to contribute savings in midterm



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 5 - Pricing pressure reverses from the Q3 lows



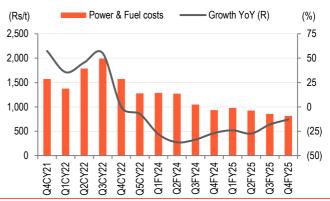
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 7 – Operating cost savings measures are commendable



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 9 - Green energy may further boost fuel cost savings



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Valuation methodology

We maintain our EBITDA estimates for FY26/FY27 factoring health volume growth, though realisation growth may be challenging given the heightened competitive pressure in FY26/FY27. Full impact of inorganic growth (ORCMNT + Penna) transition is steady and will continue in the near/medium term pinching cost.

Current phase of transition of the newly-acquired assets, pressure in overcrowded markets on prices and excessive volume push may have some impact on the performance in the interim period. We will keenly watch this and accordingly remain vigilant to the changing business environment and performance of ACEM.

We estimate revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGR of 17%/14%/13% over FY24-FY27. We value ACEM's consolidated business by assigning EV/EBITDA of 13x 1YF earnings and revise our TP to Rs 587 (from Rs 579).

Our TP implies a replacement cost of Rs 10bn/mnt – \sim 33% premium to the industry. We retain HOLD

Fig 10 - Valuation summary

Business (Rs mn)	FY27E
Target EV/EBITDA (x)	13
EBITDA	95,901
Target EV	11,99,724
Total EV	11,99,724
Net debt	(2,46,269)
Target market capitalisation	14,46,093
Target price (Rs/sh)	587
Weighted average shares (mn)	2197.7

Source: BOBCAPS Research| Valuations are 1-year forward Dec-2026

Fig 11 - Peer comparison

Ticker	Bating TF		ΕV	//EBITDA (κ)	EV	//tonne (US	\$)		ROE (%)			ROCE (%)	
пскег	Rating	(Rs)	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
ACEM IN	HOLD	587	13.0	14.9	12.5	193	183	175	9.0	7.2	8.5	10.2	9.3	11.1
ACC IN	HOLD	2,154	15.4	9.3	7.8	110.6	101.2	90.9	8.2	11.5	13.3	9.7	13.9	15.7
UTCEM IN	BUY	13,919	25.3	17.6	14.4	304.24	278.26	246.81	10.0	14.4	16.8	12.9	17.8	21.1
SRCM IN	HOLD	25,755	24.8	23.5	19.4	140.6	140.0	121.6	4.9	8.0	10.6	6.7	10.5	13.4

Source: BOBCAPS Research

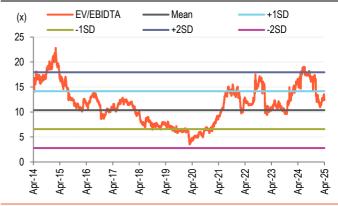


Fig 12 – EV/EBITDA band: Current valuations reflect earnings trajectory



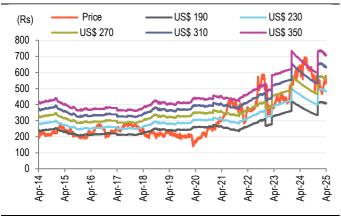
 $Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS \ Research$

Fig 13 – EV/EBITDA 1YF: Valuations reflect concerns over competitive intensity impacting earnings



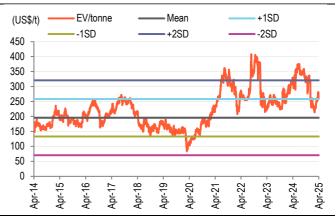
Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 14 - EV/tonne: Replacement cost at fair valuations



Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 15 - EV/tonne 1YF: Valuations ahead can moderate



Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Key risks

Key risks to our estimates:

- Increased competitive pressure in the next two years can pose downside risks to
- Faster-than-expected demand revival can raise growth ahead of our estimates, representing an upside risk.
- Rising fuel costs due to geo-political issues can pose downside risk to earnings.



Financials

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue	3,84,449	3,25,442	3,50,448	4,58,726	5,25,628
EBITDA	51,224	63,995	77,190	76,552	95,901
Depreciation	(16,447)	(16,234)	(24,783)	(21,608)	(23,634)
EBIT	42,154	59,425	61,466	64,516	81,890
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(1,949)	(2,764)	(2,159)	(2,990)	(3,308)
Other inc./(exp.)	7,377	11,664	9,059	9,572	9,623
Exceptional items	0	0	0	0	0
EBT	40,205	56,662	59,306	61,526	78,582
Income taxes	(7,051)	(11,626)	(7,640)	(14,307)	(18,059)
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	(4,130)	(11,383)	(9,778)	(12,648)	(13,526)
Reported net profit	29,024	33,652	41,889	34,571	46,997
Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	29,024	33,652	41,889	34,571	46,997
Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Accounts payables	72,283	63,338	69,671	76,638	84,302
Other current liabilities	42,707	55,711	66,569	59,104	60,877
Provisions	2,795	2,989	3,139	3,296	3,461
Debt funds	4,860	7,414	8,416	7,917	7,950
Other liabilities	7,004	15,491	24,076	24,557	25,048
Equity capital	3,971	3,971	4,395	4,926	4,926
Reserves & surplus	3,13,010	4,10,155	5,29,506	5,58,905	6,00,471
Shareholders' fund	3,87,565	5,08,035	6,37,583	6,80,385	7,35,702
Total liab. and equities	5,17,214	6,52,978	8,09,454	8,51,898	9,17,340
Cash and cash eq.	29,610	1,10,689	61,722	2,40,663	2,54,319
Accounts receivables	11,544	12,131	15,903	12,568	14,401
Inventories	32,728	36,086	42,480	30,163	34,562
Other current assets	1,80,423	1,35,118	1,45,600	1,46,170	1,51,337
Investments	2,137	8,486	18,511	1,087	1,196
Net fixed assets	1,42,485	1,92,413	2,19,137	2,55,018	2,90,046
CWIP	1,13,922	1,22,211	2,70,278	1,30,428	1,35,699
Intangible assets	4,366	35,846	35,823	35,802	35,780
Deferred tax assets, net	0	0	0	0	0
Other assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	5,17,215	6,52,978	8,09,454	8,51,898	9,17,340
Cash Flows					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Cash flow from operations	10,675	1,13,362	81,775	84,002	82,851
Capital expenditures	(31,773)	(1,03,923)	(1,99,553)	82,384	(63,912)
Change in investments	(155)	(6,349)	(10,026)	17,424	(109)
Other investing cash flows	0	0	0	0	0
Cash flow from investing	(31,928)	(1,10,272)	(2,09,578)	99,807	(64,021)
Equities issued/Others	(4,996)	1,00,331	420	755	225
Debt raised/repaid	431	2,554	1,002	(499)	33
Interest expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	(13,027)	(4,964)	(4,973)	(5,125)	(5,431)
Other financing cash flows	(48,487)	(19,933)	82,388	0	(0,101)
-		77,988	78,836	(4,868)	(5,174)
Cash flow from financing	(1871).00				
Cash flow from financing Chg in cash & cash eq.	(66,079) (87,333)	81,078	(48,967)	1,78,941	13,656

Per Share					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Reported EPS	11.7	16.1	18.0	14.0	19.1
Adjusted EPS	11.7	16.1	18.0	14.0	19.1
Dividend per share	5.0	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.2
Book value per share	195.2	242.9	273.6	276.2	298.7
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
EV/Sales	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.3
EV/EBITDA	20.2	15.0	13.0	14.9	12.5
Adjusted P/E	45.7	33.2	29.7	38.0	28.0
P/BV	2.7	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	82.5	79.5	87.1	76.7	77.0
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	95.4	95.3	96.5	95.4	96.0
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	11.0	18.3	17.5	14.1	15.6
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	79.3	55.6	47.9	55.2	59.4
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Adjusted ROAE	9.3	10.1	9.0	7.2	8.8
Ratio Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar	FY23A	FY24A	FY25P	FY26E	FY27E
YoY growth (%)					
Revenue	7.6	5.8	7.7	30.9	14.6
EBITDA	(34.0)	56.2	20.6	(0.8)	25.3
Adjusted EPS	(20.0)	37.6	11.7	(21.9)	35.9
Profitability & Return ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	13.1	19.3	21.0	16.4	18.0
EBIT margin	10.8	17.9	16.7	13.9	15.4
Adjusted profit margin	7.5	10.3	12.0	7.5	8.9
Adjusted ROAE	9.3	10.1	9.0	7.2	8.5
ROCE	9.2	12.8	10.2	9.3	11.1
Working capital days (days)					
Receivables	14	14	17	10	10
Inventory	39	40	44	24	24
Payables	97	86	88	72	70
Ratios (x)					
Gross asset turnover	1.6	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1

Adjusted debt/equity 0.0 0.0

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Note: TA = Total Assets

2.2

21.6

2.4

21.5

1.9

28.5

0.0

3.1

21.6

0.0

3.1

24.8

0.0

Current ratio

Net interest coverage ratio



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SEBI Research Analyst Registration No: INH000000040 valid till 03 February 2025

Brand Name: BOBCAPS

Trade Name: www.barodaetrade.com CIN: U65999MH1996GOI098009





Investments in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing.

Registration granted by SEBI and certification from NISM in no way guarantee performance of the intermediary or provide any assurance of returns to investors.

Recommendation scale: Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY - Expected return >+15%

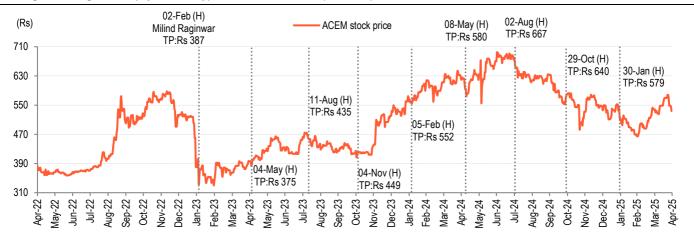
HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

Our recommendation scale does not factor in short-term stock price volatility related to market fluctuations. Thus, our recommendations may not always be strictly in line with the recommendation scale as shown above.

Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): AMBUJA CEMENTS (ACEM IN)



B-Buy, H-Hold, S-Sell, A-Add, R-Reduce

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AMBUJA CEMENTS



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