

HOLD TP: Rs 750 | ¥ 4%

CENTURY PLYBOARDS

Building Materials

02 June 2025

Mixed Q4; margin recovery to be slow on muted demand

- Misses EBITDA estimate by 7.7% on sharp sequential margin contraction across segments (except plywood)
- Near-term pain to persist on intense competition in a weak demand environment, but medium-term outlook remains positive
- Maintain HOLD on near-term earnings risk and expensive valuations;
 TP cut by 6% to Rs 750 per share

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Mixed Q4: CPBI slightly beats our topline estimate by 2.1% for Q4FY25, but missed our EBITDA/APAT estimates by 7.7%/15.8% due to sharp sequential contraction in EBITDA margin across segments (except plywood). Overall, CPBI revenue grew by 13.0% YoY, but EBITDA/APAT de-grew by 9.3%/31.2% YoY in Q4FY25.

Key highlights: CPBI has again delivered strong performance for its plywood segment (volume grew by +7.1% YoY with improvement in EBITDA margin by 94bps YoY to 14.4%) in Q4FY25. However, the company has posted weak performance for its laminate segment [EBITDA was down 89% YoY due to muted volumes (0.5% YoY) and sharp margin pressure (-1,372bps YoY to 1.7%)] and particleboard segment [EBITDA was down 94% YoY due to weak volumes (-28%) and margin contraction (-1642bps YoY to 1.4%)] in Q4FY25. Despite higher realization (+4.2% QoQ), MDF EBITDA margin fell sharply by 480bp QoQ to 11.1% in Q4FY25. Net debt/EBITDA ratio has gone up from 1.2x in FY24 to 2.9x in FY25 due to debt availed for large capex program and weak operating performance. ROE has also fallen sharply from 23.6% in FY23 to 7.6% in FY25.

Outlook: CPBI aims to grow its plywood revenue at +10% with EBITDA margin of 12-14% in FY26. Laminate revenue is projected to grow at 20% rate in FY26 with high-single-digit EBITDA margin by Q4FY26. MDF revenue is targeted to grow at 20% rate with EBITDA margin of 15% in FY26. Particleboard revenue is projected to grow at 40% rate with low-single-digit EBIDTA margin in FY26. Timber prices is expected to come down by 5-10% in Q1FY26. The company has revised up its budgeted capex to Rs 3.7bn (Rs 1.0bn earlier) for FY26. Net debt is expected to come down sharply over the next two years.

Maintain HOLD; TP cut by 6% to Rs 750: We maintain our HOLD rating on the stock due to expensive valuations (trades at 55.4x on 1Y forward P/E vs 5Y average of 44.1x). We have cut our TP to Rs 750 (Rs 800 earlier) due to downward revision of our EPS estimates (-14.4%/-14.4% for FY26E/FY27E) based on weak Q4FY25 result. Our target P/E remains unchanged at 40x on Mar'27E (earlier Dec'26E).

Key changes

Target	Rating	
▼	∢ ▶	

Ticker/Price	CPBI IN/Rs 781
Market cap	US\$ 2.0bn
Free float	27%
3M ADV	US\$ 1.2mn
52wk high/low	Rs 935/Rs 622
Promoter/FPI/DII	73%/5%/18%

Source: NSE | Price as of 2 Jun 2025

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	45,278	49,282	55,409
EBITDA (Rs mn)	4,866	6,392	8,182
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	1,731	2,927	4,171
Adj. EPS (Rs)	7.8	13.2	18.7
Consensus EPS (Rs)	8.3	18.4	26.5
Adj. ROAE (%)	7.6	11.7	14.8
Adj. P/E (x)	100.4	59.4	41.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	35.0	25.6	19.6
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(48.3)	69.1	42.5

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance



Source: NSE





Fig 1 – Quarterly performance - Consolidated

Particulars	Q4FY25	Q4FY24	YoY (%)	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	FY25	FY24	YoY (%)	BOBCAPS Q4FY25E	Variance (%)
Total operating income	11,983	10,607	13.0	11,405	5.1	45,278	38,860	16.5	11,736	2.1
Raw-Material expense	6,378	5,657	12.7	6,070	5.1	24,338	20,354	19.6		
Gross Profit	5,605	4,950	13.2	5,335	5.1	20,940	18,506	13.2		
Employee expense	1,816	1,405	29.3	1,767	2.8	6,913	5,398	28.1		
Other expense	2,444	2,061	18.5	2,272	7.5	9,162	7,789	17.6		
EBITDA	1,346	1,483	(9.3)	1,295	3.9	4,866	5,319	(8.5)	1,457	(7.7)
D&A	360	254	41.7	340	5.8	1,372	947	44.8		
EBIT	986	1,230	(19.8)	955	3.2	3,494	4,372	(20.1)		
Interest cost	190	102	85.7	179	5.9	690	308	123.9		
Non-operating expense/(income)	(20)	32	NM	(23)	NM	31	(328)	NM		
PBT	817	1,095	(25.4)	799	2.2	2,773	4,392	(36.9)		
Tax	285	311	(8.4)	211	35.1	912	1,138	(19.9)		
Reported PAT	532	784	(32.2)	588	(9.7)	1,861	3,253	(42.8)		
Adjusted PAT	597	868	(31.2)	588	1.4	201	334	(39.9)	708	(15.8)
As % of net revenues			(bps)		(bps)			(bps)		
Gross margin	46.8	46.7	11	46.8	(0)	46.2	47.6	(137)		
Employee cost	15.2	13.2	191	15.5	(34)	15.3	13.9	138		
Other cost	20.4	19.4	96	19.9	47	20.2	20.0	19		
EBITDA margin	11.2	14.0	(275)	11.4	(13)	10.7	13.7	(294)		
Tax rate	34.9	28.4	650	26.4	852	32.9	25.9	697		
APAT margin	5.0	8.2	(320)	5.2	(18)	0.4	0.9	(42)		

Fig 2 - Segment Financials

Particulars	Q4FY25	Q4FY24	YoY (%)	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	FY25	FY24	YoY (%)
Revenue (Rs mn)								
Plywood	6,707	6,120	9.6	6,181	8.5	25,219	21,738	16.0
Laminates	1,704	1,682	1.3	1,669	2.1	6,529	6,576	(0.7)
MDF	2,709	1,974	37.2	2,736	(1.0)	10,224	7,485	36.6
Particleboard	326	425	(23.2)	356	(8.5)	1,450	1,571	(7.7)
CFS	364	261	39.3	310	17.3	1,263	992	27.3
Others	187	149	25.4	176	6.7	659	551	19.7
Total	11,998	10,611	13.1	11,428	5.0	45,344	38,913	16.5
Volumes								
Plywood (CBM)	111,010	103,641	7.1	103,133	7.6	425,001	373,878	13.7
Laminates (mn sheets)	1.9	1.9	0.5	1.8	4.0	7.3	7.7	(5.2)
MDF (CBM)	87,549	62,886	39.2	98,104	(10.8)	350,475	219,974	59.3
Particleboard (CBM)	14,970	20,902	(28.4)	16,788	(10.8)	70,074	76,678	(8.6)
Realization								
Plywood (Rs/CBM)	55,356	54,540	1.5	54,416	1.7	59,338	58,143	2.1
Laminates (Rs/sheet)	875	883	(1.0)	917	(4.6)	898	857	4.8
MDF (Rs/CBM)	30,521	31,347	(2.6)	27,887	9.4	29,172	34,028	(14.3)
Particleboard (Rs/CBM)	21,222	20,299	4.5	20,801	2.0	20,686	20,482	1.0
Adjusted EBITDA (Rs mn)								
Plywood	969	827	17.2	718	34.9	3,349	2,531	32.3
Laminates	28	259	(89.1)	71	(60.3)	301	801	(62.4)
MDF	301	275	9.5	435	(30.8)	916	1,560	(41.3)
Particleboard	5	76	(93.8)	16	(70.4)	108	318	(66.0)
Total	1,346	1,483	(9.3)	1,295	3.9	4,866	5,319	(8.5)



Particulars	Q4FY25	Q4FY24	YoY (%)	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	FY25	FY24	YoY (%)
Adjusted EBITDA margin (%)								
Plywood	14.4	13.5	94	11.6	283	13.3	11.6	164
Laminates	1.7	15.4	(1372)	4.3	(260)	4.6	12.2	(757)
MDF	11.1	13.9	(282)	15.9	(480)	9.0	20.8	(1188)
Particleboard	1.4	17.9	(1642)	4.5	(302)	7.5	20.2	(1279)
Total	11.2	14.0	(276)	11.3	(12)	10.7	13.7	(294)

Earnings call highlights

- Plywood: Segment revenue grew by 9.6% YoY in Q4FY25 driven by higher volumes (+7.1%) and improved realization (+1.5%). Segment EBITDA margin improved by 94bps YoY to 14.4% in Q4FY25 due to operating leverage benefits. Going ahead, the company target to grow the segment revenue at 10%+ rate with EBITDA margin of 12-14% in FY26. The company took price hike of 2% for Century brand in Apr'25. Segment operated at a high capacity utilization of 90% in FY25 and hence CPBI plans to increase its capacity from 340,000 CBM in FY25 to 390,000 CBM in FY26 (through brownfield expansion at existing sites) and 440,000 CBM in FY27 (by setting up a greenfield plant at Hosiarpur, Punjab by Sep'26).
- Laminates: Despite start of a new greenfield facility in the month of Jan'24, segment revenue grew at a muted pace of 1.3% YoY in Q4FY25 due to weak volumes (+0.5%). Segment EBITDA margin fell sharply by 1,372bps YoY to 1.7% in Q4FY25 due to margin compression for existing standalone operations (-1019bps YoY to 5.2%) as well as loss incurred at its new unit in AP. The company target the segment revenue to grow at 20% (consolidated) with EBITDA margin of 8-10% (standalone) in FY26. Consol EBITDA margin is targeted to improve to high-single-digit by Q4FY26.
- MDF: Segment revenue grew sharply by 37.2% YoY in Q4FY25 driven by higher volumes (+39.2%) due to quick ramp-up of its new unit in AP (operated at 42% rate in Q4FY25 vs 46% in Q3FY25). MDF realization sharply improved by 4.2% QoQ in Q4FY25, but segment EBITDA margin fell sharply by 480bps QoQ to 11.1% in Q4FY25 due to impact of forex. Going ahead, the company targets the segment revenue to grow at 20% rate with EBITDA margin of 15% in FY26 on consolidated basis. The company expects the industry to take price hikes towards end of FY26. Timber prices is expected to come down by 5-10% in Q1FY26. The company is planning to increase its MDF capacity in Andhra Pradesh from 800 CBM/day 950 CBM/day through line balancing in H2FY26.
- Particleboard: Segment revenue declined sharply by 23.2% YoY in Q4FY25 driven by lower volumes (-28.4%). Segment EBITDA margin fell by 1652bps YoY / 302bps QoQ to 1.4% in Q4FY25. Going ahead, the company expects the segment revenue to grow at 40% rate (due to commencement of new greenfield plant in Q1FY26) with low-single-digit EBITDA margin in FY26. The company expects the segment margin to be 15.0% on a steady state basis over the medium-term. New plant is expected to operate at 50% rate in H2FY26. Breakeven point for the new unit is estimated at 60%+ rate.
- Capex: The company has revised up its budgeted capex to Rs 3.7bn (Rs 1.0bn earlier) for FY26 as it plans to undertake a plywood project in Punjab (Rs 1.2bn) and cost escalation for its newly commissioned MDF (from Rs 6.0bn to Rs 7.3bn) and particleboard (Rs 5.5bn to Rs 6.0bn) project.



Fig 3 – CPBI's plywood volumes grew at 7.1% YoY (6Y CAGR: +11.7%) in Q4FY25

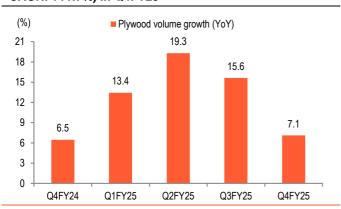
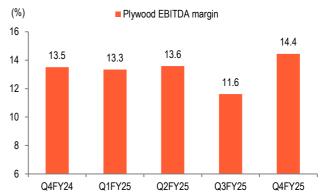
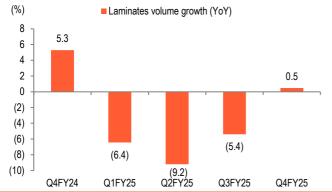


Fig 4 – Plywood margin improved by 94bps YoY in Q4FY25 due to operating leverage benefit



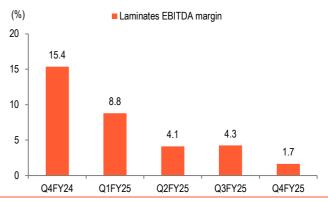
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 5 – Laminate volume grew by 0.5% YoY (6Y CAGR: +2.7%) in Q4FY25, despite start of greenfield unit in Jan'24



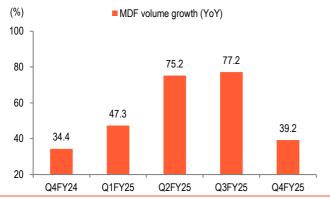
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – Laminate EBITDA margin fell sharply in Q4FY25 due to weak demand and loss incurred at new unit



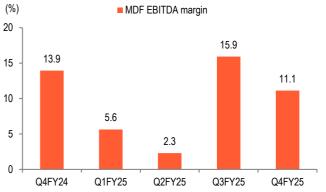
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 7 – MDF volume grew sharply by 39.2% YoY (6Y CAGR: +16.3%) in Q4FY25



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 – Despite higher realisation (+4.2% QoQ), MDF EBITDA margin fell on QoQ basis in Q4FY25 on forex loss



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Fig 9 – Particleboard volumes de-grew sharply by 28.4% YoY in Q4FY25

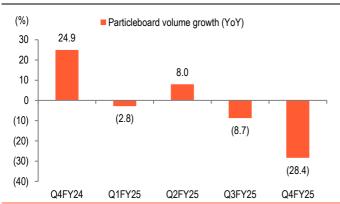
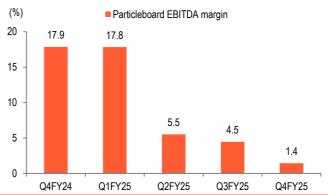
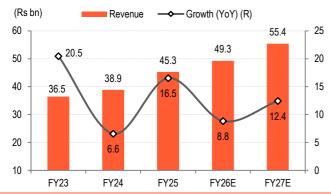


Fig 10 – Particleboard EBITDA margin fell sharply in Q4FY25 on supply side issues in the domestic market



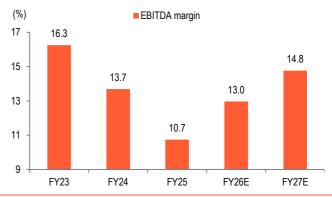
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 11 – CPBI's revenue is projected to grow at a 10.6% CAGR over FY25-FY27E



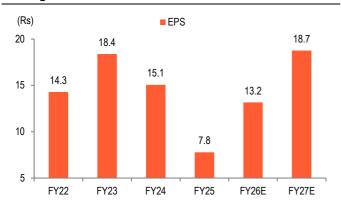
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 12 – CPBI EBITDA margin is projected to improve from 10.7% in FY25 to 14.8% in FY27 over a weak base



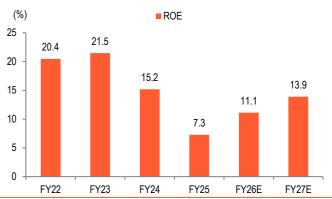
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 13 – However, CPBI's EPS is forecast to grow at a strong 55.2% CAGR over FY25-FY27E due to a low base



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 14 – ROE is projected to gradually improve from 7.3% in FY25 to 15.3% in FY27E



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Valuation methodology

We expect CPBI's EPS to grow at a strong 55.2% CAGR over FY25-FY27E owing to a low base. However, we maintain our HOLD rating on the stock due to near-term earnings risk and expensive valuations (trades at 55.4x on 1Y forward P/E vs 5Y average of 44.1x).

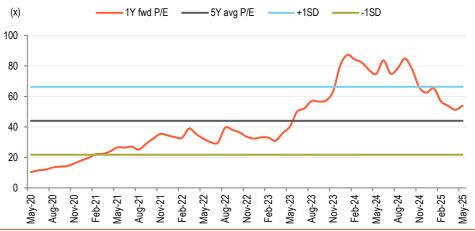
We have cut our TP to Rs 750 (Rs 800 earlier) due to downward revision of our EPS estimates (-14.4%/-14.4% for FY26E/FY27E) based on weak Q4FY25 result. Our target P/E remains unchanged at 40x on Mar'27E (earlier Dec'26E).

Fig 15 - Revised estimates

Particulars	New	New Old		Old Change (%)		: (%)
Consolidated (Rs bn)	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	49.3	55.4	51.4	60.7	(4.2)	(8.7)
EBITDA	6.4	8.2	6.9	8.9	(7.3)	(7.9)
EBITDA Margin (%)	13.0	14.8	13.4	14.6	(43bps)	13bps
Adjusted PAT	2.9	4.2	3.4	4.9	(14.4)	(14.4)
EPS (Rs)	13.2	18.7	15.4	21.9	(14.4)	(14.4)

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 16 - Trading at 55.4x on 1Y forward P/E vs. 5Y average of 44.1x



Source: Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 17 - Key assumptions

Particulars (%)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue mix					
Plywood	55.9	55.9	55.7	51.5	49.0
Laminates	18.0	16.9	14.4	15.5	15.2
MDF	17.6	19.3	22.6	25.9	27.9
Particleboard	4.8	4.0	3.2	4.2	5.3
Others	3.8	3.8	4.1	2.8	2.6
Sales volume growth					
Plywood	21.3	4.4	13.5	7.7	7.0
Laminates	6.9	6.5	(5.2)	20.1	10.0
MDF	4.1	18.7	59.3	19.5	15.0
Particleboard	0.1	5.0	(8.6)	40.0	40.0



Particulars (%)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Adjusted EBITDA margin					
Plywood	10.7	11.6	13.3	13.2	13.2
Laminates	14.8	12.2	4.6	7.3	11.8
MDF	27.4	20.8	9.0	16.4	19.1
Particleboard	27.3	20.2	7.5	7.8	14.7

Key risks

- Better-than-expected pickup in the real estate market and faster ramp-up of new projects are key upside risk to our estimates.
- Sharp corrections in MDF or particleboard prices and slow ramp-up of new projects represent key downside risks.



Financials

Income Statement Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue	36,466	38,860	45,278	49,282	55,409
EBITDA	5,927	5,320	4,866	6,392	8,182
Depreciation	775	947	1,372	1,637	1,828
EBIT	5,151	4,372	3.494	4,756	6,355
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(170)	(308)	(690)	(928)	(865)
Other inc./(exp.)	477	439	103	85	(000)
Exceptional items	340	1	0	0	00
EBT	5,119	4,502	2,906	3,912	5,574
Income taxes	1,278	1,138	912	985	1,403
Extraordinary items	0	111	133	0	1,400
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	(8)	11	(8)	0	0
Reported net profit	3,833	3,264	1,853	2,927	4,171
Adjustments	255	87	(122)	0	.,
Adjusted net profit	4,088	3,351	1,731	2,927	4,171
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Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Accounts payables	2,749	2.861	3.572	3,888	4,371
Other current liabilities	1,619	2,278	2,062	2,062	2,062
Provisions	85	93	167	181	204
Debt funds	3,134	7,184	14,737	13,737	12,737
Other liabilities	540	1,043	1,598	1,598	1,598
Equity capital	223	223	223	223	223
Reserves & surplus	18,850	21,894	23,429	26,004	29,675
Shareholders' fund	19,035	22,066	23,793	26,369	30,039
Total liab. and equities	27,163	35,526	45,928	47,835	51,011
Cash and cash eq.	2,782	671	491	1,619	2,711
Accounts receivables	3,903	4,168	5,000	5,442	6,119
Inventories	5,290	6,456	9,866	7,665	8,632
Other current assets	969	1,554	1,972	2,146	2,413
Investments	1	28	28	28	28
Net fixed assets	10,671	19,117	20,405	29,067	29,239
CWIP	2,362	2,666	7,299	1,000	1,000
Intangible assets	17	17	19	19	19
Deferred tax assets, net	2	4	249	249	249
Other assets	1,164	844	599	599	599
Total assets	27,163	35,526	45,928	47,835	51,011
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Cash Flows					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Cash flow from operations	4,463	3,268	85	7,322	5,374
Capital expenditures	(4,865)	(9,198)	(6,964)	(4,000)	(2,000)
Change in investments	2	(27)	0	0	0
Other investing cash flows	137	328	(31)	85	85
Cash flow from investing	(4,726)	(8,897)	(6,995)	(3,915)	(1,915)
Equities issued/Others	0	0	0	0	C
Debt raised/repaid	952	4,049	7,554	(1,000)	(1,000)
Interest expenses	(170)	(308)	(690)	(928)	(865)
Dividends paid	(223)	(223)	(223)	(352)	(501)
Other financing cash flows	(124)	0	89	0	C
Cash flow from financing	435	3,518	6,730	(2,280)	(2,366)
Chg in cash & cash eq.	172	(2,111)	(180)	1,127	1,093

Per Share					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Reported EPS	17.2	14.7	8.3	13.2	18.7
Adjusted EPS	18.4	15.1	7.8	13.2	18.7
Dividend per share	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6	2.3
Book value per share	85.7	99.4	106.3	117.9	134.4
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
EV/Sales	4.8	4.5	3.8	3.3	2.9
EV/EBITDA	29.4	32.7	35.0	25.6	19.6
Adjusted P/E	42.5	51.9	100.4	59.4	41.7
P/BV	9.1	7.9	7.3	6.6	5.8
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	79.9	74.4	59.6	74.8	74.8
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	99.4	103.0	83.2	82.3	87.
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	14.1	11.3	7.7	9.6	11.
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	134.2	109.4	98.6	103.0	108.0
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.
Adjusted ROAE	21.5	15.2	7.3	11.1	13.9
Ratio Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
YoY growth (%)					
Revenue	20.5	6.6	16.5	8.8	12.4
EBITDA	10.6	(10.2)	(8.5)	31.4	28.0
Adjusted EPS	28.6	(18.0)	(48.3)	69.1	42.
Profitability & Return ratios (%)		(/	(/		
EBITDA margin	16.3	13.7	10.7	13.0	14.8
EBIT margin	14.1	11.3	7.7	9.6	11.
Adjusted profit margin	11.2	8.6	3.8	5.9	7.
Adjusted ROAE	23.6	16.3	7.6	11.7	14.8
ROCE	25.4	16.4	9.3	12.1	15.
Working capital days (days)					
Receivables	39	39	40	40	4
Inventory	53	61	80	57	5
Payables	28	27	29	29	2
Ratios (x)					
Gross asset turnover	2.6	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.4
•:					

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

1.7

30.3

0.0

1.2

14.2

0.3

1.1

5.1

0.6

1.0

5.1

0.5

1.2 7.3

0.3

Current ratio

Net interest coverage ratio

Adjusted debt/equity



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

BUY - Expected return >+15%

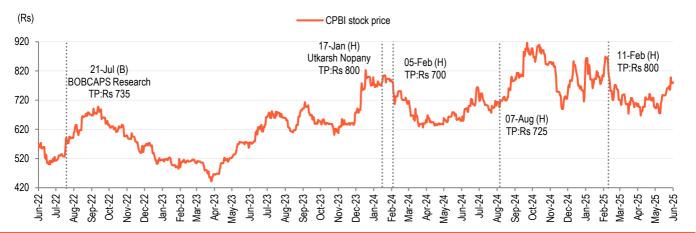
HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

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): CENTURY PLYBOARDS (CPBI IN)



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

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CENTURY PLYBOARDS



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