

HOLD TP: Rs 4,872 | △ 5%

**HERO MOTOCORP** 

Automobiles

07 August 2025

# Growth concerns to stay; margins maintained, Retain HOLD

- Q1FY26 revenue at Rs 95.8bn down 5.6%/3.6 YoY/QoQ impacted by subdued volumes of 1.37mn units down 11%/1% YoY/ QoQ
- Commodity cost relief helps gross margins, EBITDAM flat YoY to 14.4%; EV penetration hit by 2% as ICE EBITDA margins at 16.8%
- EBITDA estimates for FY26E/FY27E revised down by 2% each introduce FY28 earnings, assign 18x P/E, revise TP to Rs 4,872 (from Rs 4,642)

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Volume dent on supply chain constraints lead to revenue decline: Hero Motocorp (HMCL) reported muted Q1FY26 revenue at Rs 95.8bn down 5.6%/3.6 YoY/QoQ, impacted by subdued volumes of 1.37mn units (-11%/-1% YoY/ QoQ) due to supply chain constraints and falling demand in the commuter segment. Realisation gains of 6% YoY (down ~3% QoQ) were driven by healthy product mix (uptake in the 125cc scooter segment and premium motorcycles) and price hikes.

### Commodity cost relief helps gross margins; EBITDA margins range-bound:

Gross margins improved to 33.3% (+100 bps YoY, -124 bps QoQ), aided by a softening of raw material costs (adjusted for inventory) by ~7%/2 YoY/QoQ). Effectively, RM reduced to 66.7% of sales from 67.7% YoY. EBITDA margin of ICE improved to 16.8% but the overall margin was flat YoY at 14.4% (14.2% in Q4FY25), impacted by continued investments in EV. Effectively, EBITDA fell by 5.4%/2.4% YoY/QoQ to Rs 13.8bn. Overall, APAT was flat at Rs 11.3bn up 0.3% YoY (4.1% QoQ). Consolidated PAT stood Rs 17bn, which included one-time gain of Rs 7.2bn on account of dilution investment in the associate company.

Launch programme focused on 125cc segment: HMCL launched VIDA VX2, in the EV portfolio, and the HF Deluxe Pro both in the entry segment. A new sporty 125cc bike launch is in the pipeline and another new launch planned for Q2FY26 based on 440cc platform HMCL plans to launch couple of more HD models in CY26.

**Maintain HOLD:** Factoring in 1QFY26 show, we have lowered our volume estimates, leading to EBITDA estimates cut by 2.0%, each in FY26/FY27. However, PAT estimates are revised upward to factor in higher other income. We introduce FY28 earnings and our 3Y Revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGR is 15%/13%/12%. We continue to assign 18x target P/E to core operations, in line with the 10Y average 1YF earnings and revise the SOTP-based TP to Rs 4,872 (earlier Rs 4,642), which includes Rs 130/sh as the value of other businesses. We retain HOLD. Key risks a) concerns in the entry level segment revival 2) EV investments and brand focus will keep EBITDA margins range bound.

### Key changes

Target	Rating	
<b>A</b>	< ▶	

Ticker/Price	HMCL IN/Rs 4,661
Market cap	US\$ 10.6bn
Free float	65%
3M ADV	US\$ 32.6mn
52wk high/low	Rs 6,246/Rs 3,344
Promoter/FPI/DII	35%/30%/24%

Source: NSE | Price as of 7 Aug 2025

### **Key financials**

Y/E 31 Mar	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	4,07,564	4,75,551	5,20,585
EBITDA (Rs mn)	58,677	63,632	70,827
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	46,100	49,179	53,442
Adj. EPS (Rs)	230.9	246.3	267.6
Consensus EPS (Rs)	230.9	251.3	273.9
Adj. ROAE (%)	23.3	22.2	21.8
Adj. P/E (x)	20.2	18.9	17.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	15.8	14.5	13.0
Adj. EPS growth (%)	21.1	6.7	8.7

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

# Stock performance



Source: NSE





Fig 1 - Earnings call highlights

Parameter	Q1FY26	Q4FY25	Our view												
Growth commentary	VAHAN market share (MS) rose to 30.9% (from 29% in Q4 FY'25), driven by sustained leadership in the entry segment gaining 800bps YoY and 125cc gains (Xtreme 125R, +250 bps). In the 125cc scooter segment, MS market share surged to 9.7% driven by Xoom 125 and Destini 125. Exports grew ~40% YoY, with mgmt aiming to grow esports at similar rate with exports contributing 10% to overall volumes and revenue. EV market share at ~7%, with VIDA volumes doubling YoY.  HMCL's volumes were flat YoY at 1.38mn units (vs. 1.39mn in Q4 FY'24), down 6% QoQ from 1.46mn. Management stated gaining QoQ market share for 4 consecutive months in CY25, with a 600bps gain in entry segment (65% market share) and 250bps in 125cc (Xtreme 125R). Scooter market share was up 140bps QoQ to 6.4%, driven by Destini 125 and Xoom 125 launches. Rural demand is steady and expected to stay benign, driven by good monsoon forecast, strong wedding season and favourable income tax. Exports growth was up 43% YoY, 2x of the industry growth, with 9% MS by FY25-end. EV market share reached 7% in Mar'25.		29% in Q4 FY'25), driven by sustained leadership in the entry segment gaining 800bps YoY and 125cc gains (Xtreme 125R, +250 bps). In the 125cc scooter segment, MS market share surged to 9.7% driven by Xoom 125 and Destini 125. Exports grew ~40% YoY, with mgmt aiming to grow esports at similar rate with exports contributing 10% to overall volumes and revenue. EV market share at ~7%, with VIDA volumes doubling YoY.  Units (vs. 1.39mn in Q4 FY'24), down 6 QoQ from 1.46mn. Management stated gaining QoQ market share for 4 consect months in CY25, with a 600bps gain in segment (65% market share) and 250b 125cc (Xtreme 125R). Scooter market was up 140bps QoQ to 6.4%, driven by Destini 125 and Xoom 125 launches. Rural demand is steady and expected to stay benign, driven by good monsoon forecast, strong wedding season and favourable income tax. 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Margins	Average selling price was down by almost Rs 1,900 QoQ ex-spare business. However, the full impact of price hikes taken in Q4FY25 was realised in Q1FY26.  EBITDA margin for the ICE segment improved to 16.8%, driven by healthy product mix, price hikes and LEAP savings. Overall margins were flat at 14.4% on continued investments in the EV business and brand building activities.	Average selling price in Q4FY25 was up 4% YoY contributed by 2/3 product mix and 1/3 by price hikes, with minimal OBD2 impact. Gross margin at 34.5% (+90 bps YoY, +30 bps QoQ). EBITDA was Rs14.2 bn, up 4% YoY, down 4% QoQ.  ICE EBITDA margin was flattish at 16.1% vs 16% in Q3FY25 aggregate the margin came in at 14.2% (flat YoY, -30 bps QoQ) due to Rs 1.43 bn EV investment and 13% YoY rise in promotional expenses (13.5% of sales). Consolidated PAT had a one-time gain of Rs 1.7bn from CCPS conversion.	Gross margins were guarded by better RM cost management. EBITDA margins were listless due to EV and brand investments. Realisation push is likely to be a continued challenge.												
Capacity Expansion	Premia store network expanded to 125 outlets from 80 outlets.	Work continues to ramp up the Tirupati EV plant, with plans in place to invest significantly for a second Global Park Centre.	Store expansion to expand reach of the premium segment helping guard margins.												
Commentary on Marketing campaigns are ramped up to enhance visibility of HF Deluxe, Xtreme250 and VIDA VX2 models to capitalise the festive season and catering to diverse customer needs.		The "Xtreme Power Brand" campaign, featuring Virat Kohli, gained significant traction and effectively boosted visibility for the Xtreme 125 and 250R models. HMCL also increased investments in brand-building initiatives, which contributed to a 13% YoY rise in other expenses.	Marketing strategy is yielding results with distinct responses in different categories, which augurs well for HMCL.												
Commentary on new launches	VIDA VX2 launched in Q1FY26 as per plan strengthening VIDA V2 portfolio and targeting mass-market EV adoption. HF Deluxe Pro launched with segment first feature to drive interest in the entry segment. New launch in the Sporty 125cc segment is planned for the festive season. New premium motorcycle is being developed with Harley Davidson and will be launched in Q2FY26.	HMCL launched Xoom 125 (sporty 125cc) and Destini 125 ExTech (commuter), both have been well-received, boosting the scooter MS by 140bps.  Premium segment bike launches (Xpulse 210, Xtreme 250R) have witnessed a strong order pipeline.  Two affordable EV scooters have been planned for July 2025 to strengthen VIDA V2 portfolio.	Keeping the market excited with a stream of new launches will aid all-round growth for HMCL. Continued focus on filling the gap in the 125cc segment will help ease margins pressure.												



Parameter	Q1FY26	Q4FY25	Our view
Electric Vehicle portfolio and PLI scheme	VIDA products are now available in 400+ cities and have a network of 600+ touch points. V2 Pro received approval for PLI in July and approvals for other models are in process.  Battery as a Service is offered for period ranging from 2-5 yrs on two variant VX2 Go and VX2 Plus	The EV market share rose to 7% in March 2025, up from 4.7% in Q3FY25. VIDA. EV brand recorded a strong 200% YoY growth in volumes. Financial performance also showed improvement, with EBITDA margin for VIDA improving to negative 95% vs negative 155% in FY24.	Differentiated EV products have resulted in a healthy buyer response in the initial phase. Thrust on EVs is another positive step, though it may keep margins muted.
		The company filed a Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) application for the VIDA Pro, with approval anticipated by July 2025.	
Parts Accessories & Merchandise (PAM) segment	PAM business reported a weak quarter with revenue coming in at ~Rs 13bn as seasonality pressured the business.	PAM business delivered a strong performance in Q4FY25, with revenue reaching Rs 15.5bn; an 11% YoY increase. This segment contributed 15.6% to the company's overall revenue, up from 15.3% in Q3FY25. Growth was primarily driven by deeper penetration in the aftermarket, expansion of product lines including tires and batteries, and continued scaling of the distribution network.	No major changes in contribution from this segment. Going forward, it is expected to stay steady, but will remain an added cushion.
Other Information	Hero FinCorp (HFCL) loan book grew by 4% YoY to Rs 547bn. Finance penetration is back to 65% level after declining for the past few months as marriage leads to higher cash purchases. During Q1YF26, performance was impacted by higher NPAs and credit cost but credit quality and collection efficiency increasing with the falling interest rate environment management expects growth to turn profitable.	Hero FinCorp (HFC) maintained stable retail finance penetration of 59% and 63% for the full fiscal year, with no signs of credit tightening.  For exports, outlook remains strong, with premium products accounting for 40% of total exports. HMCL expanded international footprint by entering new markets like Sri Lanka, Philippines and reentering Nepal. In the EV 3W space, Hero MotoCorp acquired a 34.1% stake in Euler Motors for Rs 5.1bn. Additionally, Ather Energy's listing on the NSE resulted with Hero MotoCorp realising a one-time gain of Rs 1.7bn from the conversion of its CCPS (Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares).	Higher credit costs pose a challenge to the HMCL's finance arm and will be keenly watched.

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Fig 2 – Quarterly performance (standalone)

(Rs mn)	1QFY26	1QFY25	YoY (%)	4QFY25	QoQ (%)	1QFY26E	Deviation (%)
Volume	13,67,070	15,35,156	(10.9)	13,80,545	(1.0)	13,67,070	0.0
Avg. Realisation per Vehicle	70,069	66,076	6.0	71,991	(2.7)	72,711	(3.6)
Net Revenues	95,789	1,01,437	(5.6)	99,387	(3.6)	99,401	(3.6)
Total Income (A)	95,789	1,01,437	(5.6)	99,387	(3.6)	99,401	(3.6)
Operating Expenses							
Raw materials consumed	63,904	68,672	(6.9)	65,069	(1.8)	65,444	(2.4)
Employee Expenses	6,260	6,083	2.9	6,711	(6.7)	6,958	(10.0)
Other Expenses	11,808	12,085	(2.3)	13,451	(12.2)	12,425	(5.0)
Total Expenditure (B)	81,972	86,840	(5.6)	85,231	(3.8)	84,827	(3.4)
EBITDA (A-B)	13,817	14,598	(5.3)	14,156	(2.4)	14,574	(5.2)
Other Income	3,037	2,317	31.1	2,237	35.7	2,511	20.9
Depreciation	1,928	1,932	(0.2)	1,921	0.4	1,961	(1.7)
EBIT	14,926	14,983	(0.4)	14,472	3.1	15,124	(1.3)
Finance Costs	56	48	16.6	47	18.6	49	14.5
PBT before excep items	14,870	14,935	(0.4)	14,425	3.1	15,075	(1.4)
Exceptional item	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PBT after excep item	14,870	14,935	(0.4)	14,425	3.1	15,075	(1.4)
Tax expense	3,613	3,708	(2.6)	3,615	(0.1)	3,769	(4.1)
Reported PAT	11,257	11,226	0.3	10,809	4.1	11,306	(0.4)
Adjusted PAT	11,257	11,226	0.3	10,809	4.1	11,306	(0.4)
EPS (Rs)	56.4	56.2	0.3	54.1	4.1	56.6	(0.4)
Key Ratios (%)			(bps)		(bps)		(bps)
Gross Margin	33.3	32.3	99	34.5	(124)	34.2	(87)
EBITDA Margin	14.4	14.4	3	14.2	18	14.7	(24)
EBIT Margin	15.6	14.8	81	14.6	102	15.2	37
PBT Margin	15.5	14.7	80	14.5	101	15.2	36
Tax Rate	24.3	24.8	(53)	25.1	(76)	25.0	(70)
Adj PAT Margin	11.8	11.1	68	10.9	88	11.4	38
Source: Company RORCAPS Research							

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



# **Valuation Methodology**

Factoring in the 1QFY26 show, we have lowered our volume estimates, leading to EBITDA estimates cut by 2.0% each in FY26/FY27. However, PAT estimates are revised upward to factor in higher other income. We introduce FY28 earnings and our 3Y Revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGR is 15%/13%/12%.

The 125cc focus and performance is encouraging but the entry level segment muted performance continues to be a challenge where HMCL has a strong presence. Additionally, the EV segment will drag margins in the medium term. We feel growth will be a challenge for HMCL, given the postponement of revival in the entry segment and new entry in the high-end segment. Margins may stay range-bound, given the aggressive EV push. Exports growth, though on a lower base, is encouraging and will be keenly watched.

We continue to assign 18x target P/E to core operations, in line with the 10Y average 1YF earnings and revise the SOTP-based TP to Rs 4,872 (earlier Rs 4,642), which includes Rs 130/sh as the value of other businesses. We retain HOLD.

Fig 3 - Revised estimates

(Do)		New			Old		(	Change (%)	
(Rs mn)	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E*	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue	4,75,551	5,20,585	5,65,615	4,80,616	5,27,116		(1.1)	(1.2)	
EBITDA	63,632	70,827	74,853	64,615	72,101		(1.5)	(1.8)	
Adj PAT	49,179	53,442	56,008	47,959	51,459		2.5	3.9	
Adj EPS (Rs)	246.3	267.6	280.5	240	258		2.5	3.9	

Source: BOBCAPS Research, \*FY28 earnings newly introduced

Fig 4 - Key assumptions

	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Volumes (units)	62,05,142	66,08,476	70,40,665	74,63,105
Revenues (Rs mn)	4,07,564	4,75,551	5,20,585	5,65,615
EBITDA (Rs mn)	58,677	63,632	70,827	74,853
EBITDA margin (%)	14.4	13.4	13.6	13.2
Adj PAT (Rs mn)	46,100	49,179	53,442	56,008

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 5 - Valuation summary

Business	1-year forward EPS (Rs)	Target P/E (x)	Value (Rs)
Standalone Business	271	18	4,742
Other Business	-	-	130
Total	•	-	4,872

Source: BOBCAPS Research



Fig 6 – P/E band: We value HMCL at 18x 1YF EPS near its mean valuation

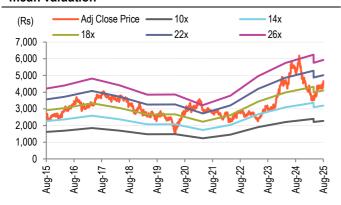


Fig 7 – P/E 1YF: Valuations reflect the earnings concern



Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

# **Key risks**

Key upside/downside risks to our estimates:

- A stronger-than-expected response to HMCL's high-end products in the 125cc+ segment.
- Continued slower-than-expected demand revival, especially in the entry segment can adversely impact earnings.
- Exports focus will be keenly watched.



# **Financials**

Income Statement					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Total revenue	3,74,557	4,07,564	4,75,551	5,20,585	5,65,615
EBITDA	52,557	58,677	63,632	70,827	74,853
Depreciation	7,114	7,759	7,854	8,122	8,659
EBIT	54,368	61,478	65,645	71,671	75,129
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(185)	(199)	(291)	(320)	(352)
Other inc./(exp.)	8,926	10,559	9,867	8,965	8,934
Exceptional items	1,600	0	0	0	0
EBT	52,583	61,278	65,354	71,351	74,776
Income taxes	12,904	15,179	16,175	17,909	18,769
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	C
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	0	0	0	0	C
Reported net profit	39,679	46,100	49,179	53,442	56,008
Adjustments	(1,600)	0	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	38,079	46,100	49,179	53,442	56,008
Dalamas Obsest					
Balance Sheet Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Accounts payables	58,529	60,297	69,920	76,162	82,851
Other current liabilities	8,269	8,682	9,116	9,572	10,051
Provisions	4,708	7,058	5,191	5,450	5.723
Debt funds	0	0	0,101	0,100	0,720
Other liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Equity capital	400	400	400	400	400
Reserves & surplus	1,79,462	1,97,668	2,21,511	2,45,000	2,71,054
Shareholders' fund	1,79,861	1,98,068	2,21,911	2,45,399	2,71,454
Total liab. and equities	2,51,367	2,74,105	3,06,137	3,36,583	3,70,077
Cash and cash eq.	6,089	3,532	8,498	6,648	6,195
Accounts receivables	27,034	36,744	38,995	42,688	46,380
Inventories	14,438	14,576	19,498	21,344	23,190
Other current assets	14,148	11,314	15,598	17,158	18,874
Investments	1,30,861	1,49,096	1,56,110	1,79,048	2,03,789
Net fixed assets	58,340	60,246	62,293	64,071	65,312
CWIP	4,805	3,692	9,000	9,000	9,000
Intangible assets	0	0,002	0,000	0,000	0,000
Deferred tax assets, net	(4,348)	(5,096)	(3,855)	(3,373)	(2,663)
Other assets	0	0	0,000)	0	(2,000)
Total assets	2,51,367	2,74,105	3,06,137	3,36,583	3,70,077
Cash Flows Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Cash flow from operations	48,638	40,617	43,608	52,137	55,565
Capital expenditures	(8,007)	(8,552)	(15,208)	(9,900)	(9,900)
Change in investments	(20,757)	(18,235)	(7,015)	(22,937)	(24,742)
Other investing cash flows	8,926	10,559	9,867	8,965	8,934
Cash flow from investing	(19,839)	(16,227)	(12,356)	(23,872)	(25,708)
Equities issued/Others	241	(241)	(12,330)	(23,672)	(23,700)
Debt raised/repaid	0	0	0	0	0
Interest expenses	(185)	(199)	(291)	(320)	(352)
Dividends paid	(27,956)	(23,963)	(27,956)	(320)	(29,953)
Other financing cash flows  Cash flow from financing	295	748	(1,241)	(482)	(709)
	(27,605)	(23,655)	(29,488)	(30,756)	(31,014)
Chg in cash & cash eq.	1,194	735	1,764	(2,491)	(1,157)
Closing cash & cash eq.	6,089	3,532	8,498	6,648	6,195

Per Share					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Reported EPS	190.7	230.9	246.3	267.6	280.5
Adjusted EPS	190.7	230.9	246.3	267.6	280.5
Dividend per share	140.0	120.0	140.0	150.0	150.0
Book value per share	900.7	991.9	1,111.3	1,228.9	1,359.4
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
EV/Sales	2.5	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.6
EV/EBITDA	17.7	15.8	14.5	13.0	12.3
Adjusted P/E	24.4	20.2	18.9	17.4	16.6
P/BV	5.2	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.4
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	72.4	75.2	75.3	74.9	74.9
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	96.7	99.7	99.6	99.6	99.5
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	14.5	15.1	13.8	13.8	13.3
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	215.9	215.7	226.5	222.8	218.9
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Adjusted ROAE	22.0	24.4	23.4	22.9	21.7
Ratio Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
YoY growth (%)	11270	11204	1 1202	11272	1 1202
Revenue	10.8	8.8	16.7	9.5	8.7
EBITDA	31.8	11.6	8.4	11.3	5.7
Adjusted EPS	30.8	21.1	6.7	8.7	4.8
Profitability & Return ratios (%)	00.0	2	0.7	0.7	1.0
EBITDA margin	14.0	14.4	13.4	13.6	13.2
EBIT margin	14.5	15.1	13.8	13.8	13.3
Adjusted profit margin	10.2	11.3	10.3	10.3	9.9
Adjusted ROAE	21.2	23.3	22.2	21.8	20.6
ROCE	23.7	24.5	23.5	23.0	21.8
Working capital days (days)	20.1	21.0	20.0	20.0	21.0
Receivables	27	29	29	29	29
Inventory	14	13	13	14	14
Payables	78	80	72	74	74
Ratios (x)	.,				
Natios (X)					
Gross asset turnover	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3

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

0.9

0.0

(293.9)

0.9

0.0

(308.6)

1.0

0.0

(225.6)

1.0

0.0

(223.9)

1.0

0.0

(213.4)

Current ratio

Net interest coverage ratio

Adjusted debt/equity



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BUY - Expected return >+15%

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Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

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#### Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): HERO MOTOCORP (HMCL IN)



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

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## **HERO MOTOCORP**



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