

Report Type: Q4FY24 Result Sector: Construction Date-26th June 24

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. RESULTS OVERVIEW:

- Consolidated revenue rose by 25% on YoY basis and 15% on QoQ basis to Rs.3052
 cr.
- ROCE of the company dipped to 21 % in FY24 from 39% in FY23.
- EBITDA margin dipped by 219 bps YoY and dipped by 158.9 bps QoQ to close at 21%.
- ROE of the company dipped to 22.6 % in FY24 from 23.8% in FY23.

2. MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY:

- Order Inflow guidance: Management is expecting an order inflow of Rs.12000-15000 crores for FY25.
- Revenue growth guidance: Revenue growth target of around 15% for FY24-25.
- EBITDA Margin Guidance: Management is expecting EBITDA Margins to be around 9.5% for FY25 and 11-11.5% for FY26.
- PAT Margin Guidance: Management is targeting PAT Margin of 5-6% for FY25.

3. PRICE PERFORMANCE (%)

Particulars	3 M	1 Y
Ashoka Buildcon Ltd	51.1%	70.1%
Nifty 500	10.8%	15.5%
Nifty 50	6.87%	9.80%

4. **CONCALL SUMMARY:**

- Highway construction in India: 12,349 km in FY24, up 20% YoY.
- Received LoA for stilt bridge project from CIDCO worth Rs.662.55 crore.
- Secured LoA for six-lane highway project in Bihar under Bharatmala for Rs.520 crore.
- Received Provisional Completion Certificates for several NHAI projects.
- Completed sale of 51% stake in Unison Enviro Private Limited for Rs.286.67 crore.
- Company has acquired the 50% stake held by GVR Infra Projects Limited in GVR Ashoka Chennai ORR Limited. This acquisition makes GVR Ashoka Chennai ORR Limited a 100% subsidiary of Ashoka Buildcon Limited.
- The company has a standalone debt of Rs14.5bn as of March'24. The management will reduce the working capital debt by ~50% through receipts of asset monetization.
- The company currently has 17 construction projects in its portfolio. Among these,
 11 projects belong to HAM and 9 projects have achieved their COD or PCOD while 2 projects are under UC.
- The company estimates total equity infusion of Rs1.5bn in HAM projects.
- The Water treatment project in Mumbai the execution for the project has been started; Rs.4bn has been executed in FY24, o/s order book Rs. 7.5bn will be executed in this year itself.
- Exceptional gain of Rs2.2 bn in FY24 was on account of gains on the sale of stake held in Unison Environment to Mahanagar Gas.
- Company is coming up with fund raise for arbitration purpose & realigning the working capital requirements, with short term & long term benefits, company is planning to come with 18-24 month NCD's.
- The company has received completion certificate for its HAM project with the NHAI for the 8-lane Vadodara Kim Expressway. This project was executed by Ashoka Ankleshwar Manubar Expressway Private Limited (SPV). The SPV has been receiving the annuity amount from NHAI for 11.25km.

5. VALUATION AND OUTLOOK:

- Project awarding has been soft to date but expected to accelerate as indicated by the Ministry of Road Transport before the model code of conduct is implemented.
- Road construction activity is expected to pick up after the monsoon season, and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) continues to focus on project execution with ambitious targets.
- Strong cash generation will enable business development.
- Company is confident in its ability to ramp up the order book fueled by increased government spending on infrastructure.
- Overall, company remains one of the most established EPC contractors and will continue to benefit from its healthy order book position, strong execution capabilities, and healthy financial position.
- We initiate BUY rating on stock and value the stock at 8.12x FY26 earnings to arrive at the target of Rs.277.

RECOMMENDATION – BUY CMP –235 TARGET – 277 (17.87%)

Industry	Engineering-
	Construction
NSE CODE	ASHOKA
BSE CODE	533271
Market Cap (₹ Cr)	6660.0
Shares outstanding (in Cr)	28.1
52 wk High/Low (₹)	249/79.4
P/E	15.0
P/BV	3.0
Face Value (₹)	5.0
Book Value (₹)	79.1
EPS (₹)	17.9
Dividend Yield (%)	0.00
Debt / Equity	2.45
Interest coverage	1.6

SHAREHOLDING PATTERN

	Mar 24	Dec 23	Sep 23
Promoters	54.5	54.5	54.5
FIIs	7.23	4.5	2.9
DIIs	17.6	19.7	19.9
Public	20.8	21.3	22.6
Promoter Pledging	0.0	0.00	0.00

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT (₹ Cr)

Y/E March	2024A	2025E	2026E
Core			
Sales	9798	11267	13070.5
Sales Gr. (%)	20.9	15	16
EBITDA	2233	2704	3398
EBITDA mrg. (%)	23	24	26
PAT	521	656	958
EPS (₹)	17.9	23.4	34.1
EPS Gr. (%)	35.6	30.5	45.9
Ratios			
RoE (%)	22.6	24.2	25.5
RoCE (%)	20.9	22.3	23.4
Valuation			
P/E (x)	8.8	10.0	6.89
Net Debt/ equity	2.5	2.3	2.1

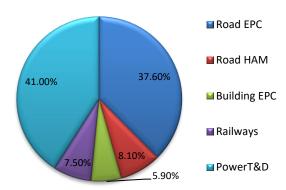
Particulars	TTM	5 Yr Avg	
Historical P/E:	13.3	10.3	
Industry P/E :	41.5		
Historical P/B:	3.0	3.8	
Industry P/B:	5.7		





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Segment Wise Breakup (%) Q4 FY24



QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE (CONSOLIDATED)

(₹ Cr)

Y/E March	FY23				FY24				EV2.4	-V0*	
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1QE*	FY24	FY25E*
Net sales	1879	1808	1956	2448	1935	2154	2657	3052	2817	9798	11267
YoY change (%)	46.5	42.9	35.8	25.1	2.97	19.2	35.9	24.65	45.4	20.96	15
Total Expenditure	1395	1378	1466	1893	1462	1608	2060	2416.6	2141	7565	8564
EBITDA	485	430	490	556	473	546	597	635	676	2233	2704
Margins (%)	26%	24%	25%	23%	24%	25%	22%	21%	24%	23%	24
Depreciation	84	82	88	87	96	99	103	68	108	367	430
Interest	250	276	290	288	319	321	337	334	447	1310	1789
Other income	37	37	41	30	38	41	42	86	98	314	390
PBT	187	108	152	139	97	167	198	426	219	870	875
Tax	58	38	14	184	25	48	79	163	54.8	349	218.8
Rate (%)	31	35%	9%	132%	26%	29%	40%	38%	25%	40.1%	25%
Adjusted PAT	129	70	138	-45	72	119	119	263	164.2	521	656.4
YoY change (%)	70.4	64.49	-64.0	-120.4	17.64	69.8	-13.72	685.1	128.1	39.7	26.0
Key Performance Indicator											
RM Cost (% of Sales)	67%	68%	68%	71%	65%	66%	71%	73%	-	69%	-
Staff Cost (% of Sales)	5%	6%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	4%	-	4%	-
Other Costs (% of Sales)	28%	26%	27%	25%	30%	29%	25%	23%	-	27%	-
EBITDA Margin (%)	26	24	25	23	24	25	22	21	24	23	24.0
PAT Margin (%)	7	4	7	-2	4	6	4	9	5.8	5.3	5.8

Source: Company, Hem Securities Research.

*Insights into the assumptions:

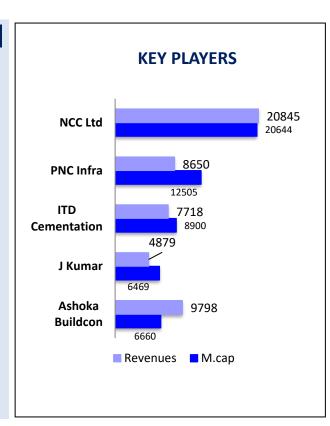
- 1> Expected to see sharp growth in FY25 on the back of Owning to the improving demand dynamics and a strong sales performance in FY23.
- 2> We expect EBITDA and PAT margins to improve in line with dedicated cost cutting efforts by the company.



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INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

- The road sector is expected to witness heightened investment as the government increases investment in infrastructure as envisaged in the Interim budget 2024-25.
- As per reports, the government would allocate Rs. 2.7 lakh crore for Highways in FY24 as against revised allocation of Rs.2.17 lakh crores in FY23, rise of 24% YoY.
- In water sector also, the Jal Shakti Ministry has been allocated Rs.97,278 Cr in the Union Budget 2023-24, as against Rs.69,052 Cr YoY, a growth of 41%. In FY 2023-24 under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Rs.69,684 Cr have been allocated to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) to 3.8 Cr households.
- Under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), projects worth ` 108 trillion (US\$ 1.3 trillion) are currently at different stages of implementation. This comprehensive pipeline underscores the Government's vision for infrastructure development and presents significant opportunities for companies like NCC to contribute to the nation's growth.
- Under the Budget for 2023-24, the capital investment outlay for infrastructure is being increased by 33% to `10 lakh crore (US\$ 122 billion). This substantial increase, amounting to 3.3% of GDP and almost three times the outlay in 2019-20, demonstrates the Government's commitment to accelerating infrastructure development in the country.



PEER PERFORMANCE (₹ Cr)

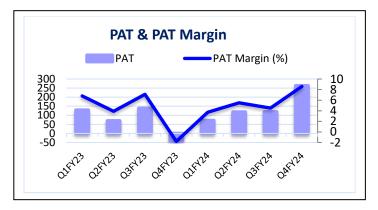
Particulars	Ashoka	J kumar	ITD	PNC Infra	NCC Ltd
	Buildcon		Cementation		
Market Cap	6660	6469	8900	12505	20644
Net Sales	9798	4879	7718	8650	20845
EBITDA	2233	704	745	2005	1769
PAT	521	329	274	909	740
EPS (Rs)	17.9	43.4	15.9	35.45	11.32
EBITDA MARGIN %	23	14	10	23	8
PAT MARGIN %	5.3	6.7	3.6	10.51	3.55
ROCE %	35.3	18.4	27.5	16.1	22.1
ROE %	22.2	13.2	20.0	19.2	11.4
P/E	15.0	19.7	32.4	13.8	28.2
P/B	3.1	2.5	5.9	2.46	3.16
EV/EBITDA	4.6	8.9	11.0	9.2	10.8
Dividend Yield	0.0	0.41	0.15	0.10	0.66
Mcap/Sales	0.68	1.33	1.15	1.45	0.99

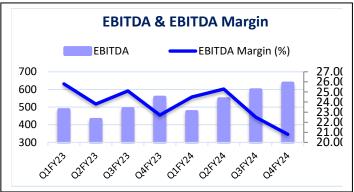
Source: Company, Hem Securities Research.

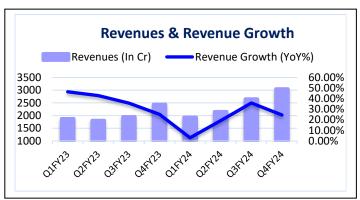


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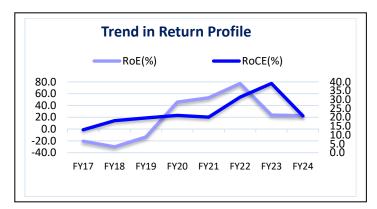
STORY IN CHARTS

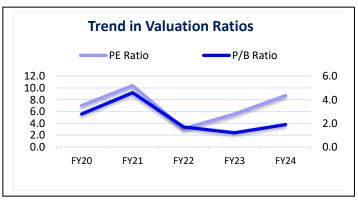


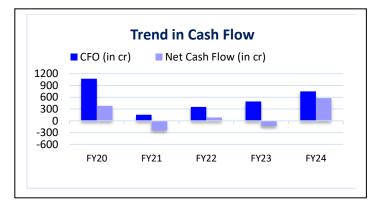


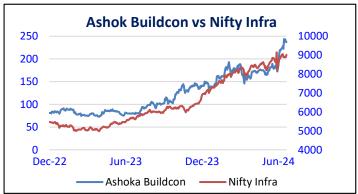
















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INVESTMENT RATIONALE:

- In the Union Budget 2024-25, Capex has been increased by 11% for the infrastructure sector, thereby providing greater opportunities for companies like Ashoka Buildcon Ltd. With a strong bid pipeline, management expects an order inflow of Rs.12000-15000 Cr in FY25. Awarding activity of road projects was slow till now but is expected to improve going forward and be swift in FY25.
- Company is one of the key beneficiaries of increasing government focus on the greenfield expressway projects that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is focusing on by implementation on both EPC and HAM modes and Government's initiatives such as Bharatmala Pariyojana, Sagarmala, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation over next few years.
- Company focus on margins and cash flow generation augurs well from a long-term perspective. Over the years, the company has
 transformed itself into one of the leading EPC players and has grown its order book and revenue at a healthy rate with good margins.
- To increase the ambit of the metro rail system across the country, the government had also earmarked Rs.19,518 Cr for Metro Projects in last year's budget. This higher allocation demonstrates the government's commitment to achieving inclusive and sustainable urban development as well as to modernising and improving the efficiency of Indian Railways, which stands as one of the most extensive railway networks in the world.
- Company has also calibrated diversification to continue the growth momentum, without assuming the concentration risk, leading to superior scalability and recognition. Robust execution capabilities coupled with strong repository of asset base enabling efficient execution would reflect in strong revenue growth.
- Company has strong financials and healthy balance sheet as compared to its peer companies which gives company a competitive advantage
 in bidding for new bulky projects.
- Its continued focus on adding and diversifying project portfolio at healthy margins reinforces our positive view on the company.
- For FY25, the company aims to grow its revenue by 15% and EBITDA margins are expected to be between 9-9.5%. For FY26, EBITDA Margins are expected to be around 11-11.5%.
- As of 31st Mar'24, the company's outstanding order book stood at Rs.11697 Cr. A healthy and robust order book gives revenue visibility for the next 3-4 years.

RISK FACTORS:

- Lower execution than expected may derail the revenue growth guidance.
- Higher input costs may impact the company's EBITDA margins.

COMPANY RECAP

- Ashoka Buildcon Ltd is a Fortune India 500 company and one of the leading highway developers in India. The company is an integrated EPC, BOT and HAM player. It is engaged in segments that are Highways & Bridges, Power (EPC), Railway works, Buildings (EPC), City Gas distribution, and smart infrastructure. It has executed/been executing 41 PPP Projects and has a presence in 20+ state.
- Other Services: Besides construction of highways and bridges, company is also engaged in Power Transmission and Distribution on EPC Basis. Company has worked in over many states across the country and completed prestigious projects for central as well as state governments.
- Revenue Mix:

Road EPC - 37.6%

Road HAM - 8.1%

Building EPC – 5.9%

Railways - 7.5%

Power T&D - 41.0%

Geographical Split

North - 4.8%

South - 25.4%

East-10.8%

West - 35.2%

Central – 11.5%

North East – 2.8%

Overseas - 9.6%

Client Breakup

Central Govt – 31.4%

State Govt - 44.3%

HAM - 8.1%

Private Client - 6.8%

Overseas - 9.6%

• Order book: As of 31st Mar'24, the company's order book stood at Rs.11,697 Cr.





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ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

Financials & Valuations								
Income Statement							(₹ Cr	
March	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025E	2026E
Revenue from operations	4930.1	5070.5	4991.7	5999.0	8100.5	9798	11267	13070.5
Growth YoY (%)	36.91	2.8	(1.6)	20.2	35.0	20.96	15	16
Total Expenditure	3535.8	3495.3	3456.2	4209.9	6131.7	7565	8564	9672
(%) of sales	71.7	68.9	69.2	70.2	<i>75.7</i>	77.2	76	74
EBITDA	1394.3	1575.2	1535.5	1789.1	1968.8	2233.0	2704	3398
EBITDA Growth (%)	23.5	12.6	0.5	16.3	8.6	13.42	21	26
EBITDA Margin (%)	29.8	32.7	33.4	32.3	26.0	23.0	24	26
Depreciation	258.2	299.8	275.9	338.2	341.1	367	430	590
EBIT	450.04	614.4	696.1	933.5	999.6	1866	2274	2808
Growth (%)	20.14	18.8	2.8	37.6	(12.6)	86.7	22	23
Interest Expenses	1021.3	1042.6	969.6	1003.8	1103.8	1310	1789	1851
Other Income	77.1	81.7	130.2	148.2	134.6	314	390	320
Exceptional Items	-60.13	-	-	326	(72.0)	-	-	-
Earnings before Taxes	130.62	326.2	437.7	932.2	588.2	870.0	875	1277
Growth (%)	-40%	150%	34%	113%	-37%	47.9%	1%	46
EBT Margin (%)	2.65	6.4	8.8	15.5	7.3	8.8	8.0	10
Tax-Total	170.9	165.9	164.2	160.8	215.3	349	218.8	319.3
Rate of tax (%)	130.8	50.8	<i>37.5</i>	17.2	36.6	40.1	25.0	25.0
Net Profit	-40.3	160.4	273.5	771.4	372.9	521	656.4	958.0
Growth (%)	66.1	498.1	70.5	182.1	(51.7)	<i>39.7</i>	26.0	46.0
PAT Margin (%)	-0.82	3.2	5.5	12.9	4.6	<i>5.3</i>	5.82	7.3
EPS	-1.19	5.9	9.8	27.7	13.2	17.9	23.4	34.1
EPS Growth (%)	69.9	594.1	67.1	181.9	(52.3)	35.61	30.5	45.9

Balance Sheet

Y/E March	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Equity Share Capital	140	140	140	140	140	140
Reserves& Surplus	147	274	479	1,240	1,614	2,080
Total Shareholder's Funds (A)	287	414	619	1,380	1,754	2,220
Long Term Borrowings	5410	5,558	5,876	2,936	764	3,790
Non-Controlling Interest	119	128	211	219	220	204
Total Non-Current Liabilities (B)	5529	5,686	6,087	3,155	984	3,994
Advance from customers	482	481	332	307	585	
Trade Payables	947	738	727	859	1,061	1,573
Other Liability Items	5856	6,302	6,452	9,702	12,740	11,336
Total Current Liabilities (C)	7285	7,521	7,511	10,868	14,386	12,909
Total Equity and Liabilities (A+B+C)	13101	13,621	14,217	15,403	17,124	19,123
Property, Plant & Equipment	7874	7,693	7,488	1,309	329	6,689
Capital Work in progress	58	77	62	73	62	39
Investments	284	186	214	65	32	112
Total Non-Current Assets (A)	8216	7,956	7,764	1,447	423	6,840
Inventory	426	435	437	450	561	699
Debtors	1048	931	896	764	910	1,058
Cash and Bank Balance	234	754	631	729	526	816
Loans and advances	28	4	3	10	13	17
Other Current Assets	3149	3,553	4,487	12,005	14,691	9,694
Total Current Assets (B)	4885	5,677	6,454	13,958	16,701	12,284
Total Assets(A+B)	13101	13,633	14,218	15,405	17,124	19,124

 $Source: \ Company, \ Hem \ Securities \ Research.$



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Ratios						
Y/E March(Basic (INR)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Profitability and return ratios						
Net profit margin (%)	-0.82	3.16	5.5	12.9	4.6	5.3
EBITDA margin (%)	29.8	32.7	33.4	32.3	25.9	23.0
EBIT margin (%)	23.4	27.0	28.2	32.3	20.9	19.0
ROE (%)	-13.4	45.7	52.9	77.2	23.8	22.6
ROCE (%)	19.6	21.1	20.1	31.4	39.1	20.9
Working Capital & liquidity ratios	_					
Payables (Days)	186.8	257.4	205.5	186.9	125.0	84.0
Inventory (Days)	31.3	31.0	31.9	26.9	22.8	37.0
Receivables (Days)	64.3	71.3	66.8	50.5	37.7	39.0
Current Ratio (x)	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.1	1.2
Valuations Ratios						
EV/sales (x)	1.9	1.3	1.8	0.9	0.4	1.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	6.4	4.0	5.4	2.7	1.6	3.8
P/E (x)	0.0	6.0	10.3	3.1	5.6	8.8
P/BV (x)	12.6	2.8	4.6	1.7	1.2	1.9
Dividend Yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Return on Assets (%)	-0.3	1.2	1.9	5.2	2.3	2.6
Leverage Ratio						
Debt/Equity (x)	21.1	15.1	10.8	2.6	1.1	2.5

Cash Flow Statement						
Y/E March	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CF from Operating activities (A)	-90	1070	155	353	492	749
CF from Investing Activities (B)	-244	-117	-176	-233	-310.7	234
CF from Financing Activities (C)	311	-571	-221	-35	-311	-407
Net Cash Flow	-24.1	381.4	-241.7	85.2	-130	576
Add: Opening Bal.	223	199	580	339	424	294
Closing Balance	199	580	339	424	294	870

Source: Company, Hem Securities Research.





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RATIN	JG.	CRI	TF	RΙΔ
	•••	CIVI	45	NIA

INVESTMENT RATING	EXPECTED RETURN
BUY	>=15%
ACCUMULATE	5% to 15%
HOLD	0 to 5%
REDUCE	-5% to 0
SELL	<-5%

DATE	RATING	TARGE
26 th June 24	BUY	277

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Name of the Research Analyst: Deepanshu Jain

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