Logistics

A mixed bag

mkay

Sector Report

QUARTERLY PREVIEW

October 8, 2024

NIFTY 50: 24,796

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We expect a mixed quarter for logistics companies under our coverage as margin protection takes center stage in the absence of double-digit volume growth. On the volume front, we expect Delhivery to report 20% YoY growth in PTL segment as it continues to regain lost wallet share as well as onboard new customers on the back of improving network and service reliability. B2C volume growth (6% QoQ/8% YoY) is likely to be tepid owing to industry-wide headwinds (quick commerce and insourcing by Meesho). We expect Blue Dart Express to grow its topline 8% YoY (volume: 11%; realizations: -3%) on the back of higher share from surface express. VRL's volume growth is likely to be impacted by price hikes undertaken in July. This, coupled with seasonality should lead to mid-single-digit volume growth for VRL, in our view. However, price hikes taken across customer segments should alleviate margin concerns witnessed during the last quarter. In our view, continued weakness in consumption-exposed sectors (consumer durables, automobiles, and lifestyle products) coupled with intense competition in B2B express industry are expected to result in yet another quarter of YoY decline in revenues for TCI Express. We maintain our ADD rating and estimates with unchanged Sep-25E TP of Rs1,150/sh. We continue to retain our REDUCE rating on Blue Dart Express due to expensive valuations and nudge up our EBITDA estimates by 1-5% for FY26E/27E factoring in higher utilizations of new air freighters resulting in a revised TP of Rs7,400/sh. With slower-than-expected ramp up in volumes and margins for VRL, we trim our PAT estimates by 11%/7% for FY25E/26E, respectively, while retaining our BUY rating and revised TP of Rs675/sh. Our TP and recommendation remain intact for Delhivery (BUY; Rs500/sh).

Delhivery: We expect 14% YoY/2% QoQ revenue growth with the PTL and B2C express segments growing 22% and 11% YoY, respectively. The PTL segment should sustain its volume ramp-up (20% YoY) on the back of improving network reliability as the company not only gains back lost wallet share but also adds new customers. B2C volumes are likely to remain muted (8% YoY) owing to an unfavorable base (lower insourcing by Meesho) and industry-wide headwinds due to quick commerce. Incremental volume growth, especially in PTL, and limited requirements of network expansion are likely to lead to reported EBITDA margins expanding by 50bps sequentially.

VRL Logistics: We model in 6% YoY volume growth on the back of price hikes in the range of 5-10% undertaken by VRL in July across customers. Management expects this slowdown in volume growth to be transitory in nature and expects the industry to follow suit in raising freight rates to protect margins. We bake in 5% increase in realizations, resulting in 11% YoY growth in revenues and EBITDA margins expanding by 55bps YoY to 13.5%. With finance cost up 21% YoY, we expect PAT to grow by only 4% YoY.

TCI Express: We expect volumes to decline 1% YoY but improve 6% sequentially. Network automation investments and improving volume trajectory should arrest sequential EBITDA margin contraction witnessed over the last three quarters as we model Q2 margins at 11.9%, up by 80bps QoQ. Improving operating performance as well as other income increasing 50% YoY should result in PAT expanding 15% QoQ.

Blue Dart Express: We expect surface express growth to outpace air as we bake in 11% YoY growth in volumes. However, blended realizations are expected to decline 3% on higher contribution from surface. We model EBITDAM expanding by 30bps YoY on the back of improving utilization of new freighters. PAT is expected to grow 11% YoY on account of EBITDA growing 9% YoY along with stable other income and finance costs.

Rating, Target Price and Valuation

		CMP	TP	Upside	P/E (x)		EV/EBITDA (x)	
	Rating	(Rs/sh)	(Rs/sh)	(%)	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E
Delhivery	BUY	404	500	24	113.7	70.0	49.0	28.0
VRL Logistics	BUY	530	675	27	41.8	23.0	10.6	8.7
TCI Express	ADD	1,059	1,150	9	34.5	30.4	23.5	20.4
Blue Dart Express	REDUCE	8,640	7,400	(14)	62.7	44.3	21.1	17.6

Exhibit 1: Exhibit 1: Logistics companies – Earnings snapshot (Q2FY25E)

Name			Q2FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25E	YoY	QoQ	Comments
Delhivery								
CMP(Rs)	404	Net Sales (Rs mn)	19,417	21,723	22,159	14%	2%	Buoyed by the strong PTL business, we expect top line to grow 14% YoY. While
Mkt Cap (Rs bn)	298	EBITDA (Rs mn)	-156	971	1,108	NA	14%	B2C volumes might remain muted, PTL
Rating	BUY	EBITDA Margin (%)	-0.8%	4.5%	5.0%	580	53	volumes would aid in expansion of EBITDA margins and further sustain
		PAT (Rs mn)	-1,029	595	389	NA	-35%	
		EPS (Rs)	-1.4	0.7	0.5	NA	-28%	quarter.
VRL Logistics								
CMP(Rs)	530	Net Sales (Rs mn)	7,093	7,272	7,905	11%	9%	With 6% YoY volume growth and 5% YoY
Mkt Cap (Rs bn)	46	EBITDA (Rs mn)	918	869	1,067	16%	23%	increase in realizations, we estimate 11% YoY increase in revenues and
Rating	BUY	EBITDA Margin (%)	12.9%	11.9%	13.5%	55	155	EBITDAM to expand by 55bps. With finance cost up 21% YoY, we expect PAT
		PAT (Rs mn)	199	134	208	4%	55%	to grow only 4% YoY.
		EPS (Rs)	2.3	1.5	2.4	4%	55%	
TCI Express								We expect ERITOA margins to stabilize
CMP(Rs)	1,059	Net Sales (Rs mn)	3,200	2,930	3,184	-1%	9%	We expect EBITDA margins to stabilize over 6% QoQ volume improvement
Mkt Cap (Rs bn)	41	EBITDA (Rs mn)	505	327	380	-25%	16%	against the margin contractions witnessed over the last three quarters.
Rating	ADD	EBITDA Margin (%)	15.8%	11.2%	11.9%	-382	77	We build in PAT to improve 15% QoQ on
		PAT (Rs mn)	356	223	257	-28%	15%	the back of 50% YoY other income growth.
		EPS (Rs)	9.25	5.80	6.68	-28%	15%	growth.
Blue Dart Express	•							
CMP(Rs)	8,640	Net Sales (Rs mn)	13,245	13,427	14,261	8%	6%	Even though we expect 11% YoY growth in volumes, we anticipate blended
Mkt Cap (Rs bn)	205	EBITDA (Rs mn)	2,227	2,022	2,436	9%	21%	realizations to decline 3%. With
Rating	REDUCE	EBITDA Margin (%)	16.8%	15.1%	17.1%	27	203	improving utilization of new freighters, we estimate EBITDAM to expand by
		PAT (Rs mn)	731	534	813	11%	52%	30bps YoY and aid in PAT to grow 11%.
		EPS (Rs)	30.8	22.5	34.3	11%	52%	

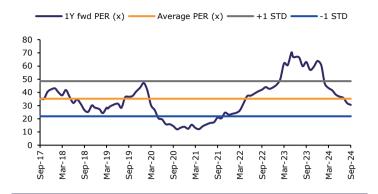
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: Valuations of our coverage companies

							E	V/EBIT	DA (x)		PER (x)		R	OE (%))	EBI	TDAM (%)
Companies	Currency	CMP (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating	Mcap (INR mn)	EV (INR mn)	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Delhivery	INR	404	500	BUY	2,98,411	2,82,976	49	28	19	113	70	46	3%	4%	6%	4%	9%	11%
VRL Logistics	INR	530	675	BUY	46,354	48,384	11	9	7	42	23	18	11%	18%	20%	14%	15%	16%
TCI Express	INR	1,059	1,150	ADD	40,626	40,308	23	20	17	35	30	25	16%	16%	17%	13%	14%	15%
Blue Dart Express	INR	8,640	7,400	REDUCE	2,05,018	2,04,282	21	18	16	63	44	40	22%	27%	25%	17%	18%	19%
Average (ex-D	Delhivery)						18	15	13	46	33	28	16%	20%	21%	15%	16%	17%

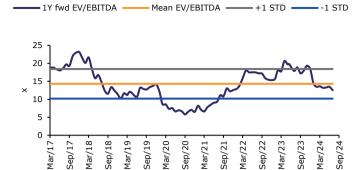
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 3: VRLL is trading below its long-term P/E...



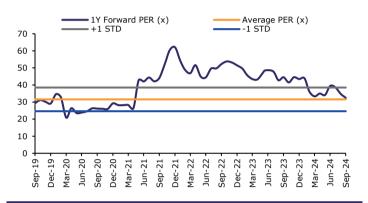
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 4: ...as well as its long-term EV/EBITDA



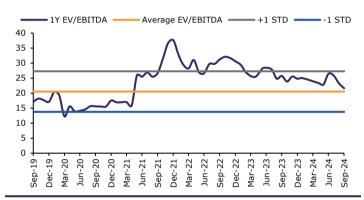
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 5: TCIE is trading around its long-term P/E...



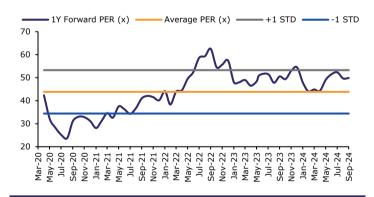
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 6: ... as well as its long-term EV/EBITDA



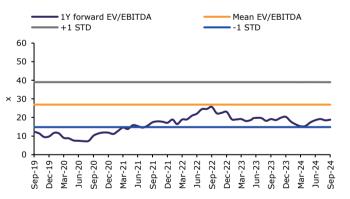
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 7: BDE is trading just below its +1 STD P/E...



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 8: ...but just above -1 S.D. long-term EV/EBITDA



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 9: Change in estimates for Delhivery

Particulars		FY25E			FY26E			FY27E	
Particulars	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change
Revenue	96,629	93,664	-3.1%	1,14,966	1,11,466	-3.0%	1,33,147	1,32,633	-0.4%
EBITDA	5,993	5,726	-4.4%	10,393	9,984	-3.9%	13,797	13,994	1.4%
EBITDA Margin %	6.2	6.1	-9 bps	9.0	9.0	-8 bps	10.4	10.6	19 bps
PAT	2,574	2,599	1.0%	3,980	4,270	7.3%	6,369	6,515	2.3%

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 10: Change in estimates for VRL Logistics

Doublesslove		FY25E			FY26E			FY27E	
Particulars	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change
Revenue	32,551	32,440	-0.3%	36,650	36,526	-0.3%	41,414	41,274	-0.3%
EBITDA	4,750	4,569	-3.8%	5,806	5,531	-4.7%	6,669	6,456	-3.2%
EBITDA Margin %	14.6	14.1	-51 bps	15.8	15.1	-70 bps	16.1	15.6	-46 bps
PAT	1,245	1,110	-10.8%	2,172	2,015	-7.3%	2,754	2,594	-5.8%

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 11: Change in estimates for TCI Express

Particulars (Rs mn)		FY25E			FY26E			FY27E	
	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change
Revenue	12,926	12,926	0.0%	13,830	13,830	0.0%	15,086	15,086	0.0%
EBITDA	1,713	1,713	0.0%	1,958	1,958	0.0%	2,322	2,322	0.0%
EBITDA Margin %	13.3	13.3	0 bps	14.2	14.2	0 bps	15.4	15.4	0 bps
PAT	1,178	1,178	0.0%	1,338	1,338	0.0%	1,624	1,624	0.0%

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 12: Change in estimates for Blue Dart

Particulars		FY25E			FY26E			FY27E	
Particulars	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change
Revenue	57,168	57,098	-0.1%	62,256	62,179	-0.1%	67,237	67,775	0.8%
EBITDA	9,806	9,667	-1.4%	11,247	11,388	1.3%	11,971	12,633	5.5%
EBITDA Margin %	17.2	16.9	-22 bps	18.1	18.3	25 bps	17.8	18.6	84 bps
PAT	3,374	3,270	-3.1%	4,695	4,631	-1.4%	4,900	5,101	4.1%

Source: Company, Emkay Research

DELHIVERY

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst
04-Aug-24	416	500	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
07-Jul-24	396	475	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
17-May-24	454	500	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
08-Apr-24	455	525	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
22-Mar-24	465	525	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
03-Feb-24	473	525	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
07-Jan-24	403	470	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
30-Nov-23	391	490	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
05-Nov-23	402	490	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
05-Aug-23	421	475	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
10-Jul-23	399	465	Buy	Anshul Agrawal

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND

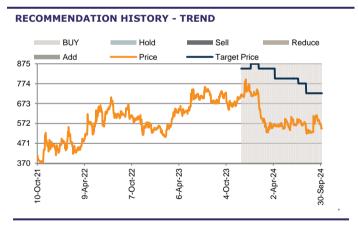


Source: Bloomberg, Company, Emkay Research

VRL LOGISTICS RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst
20-Aug-24	535	725	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
06-Aug-24	536	725	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
07-Jul-24	577	775	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
21-May-24	583	800	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
08-Apr-24	559	800	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
22-Feb-24	580	850	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
06-Feb-24	689	850	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
15-Jan-24	716	875	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
07-Jan-24	731	875	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
24-Dec-23	739	850	Buy	Anshul Agrawal
01-Dec-23	720	850	Buy	Anshul Agrawal

Source: Company, Emkay Research



Source: Bloomberg, Company, Emkay Research

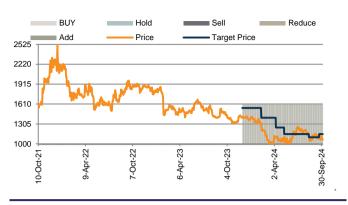
TCI EXPRESS

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Closing Price (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst
1,099	1,150	Add	Anshul Agrawal
1,129	1,100	Add	Anshul Agrawal
1,236	1,150	Add	Anshul Agrawal
1,100	1,150	Add	Anshul Agrawal
1,096	1,250	Add	Anshul Agrawal
1,277	1,400	Add	Anshul Agrawal
1,407	1,550	Add	Anshul Agrawal
1,404	1,550	Add	Anshul Agrawal
	1,099 1,129 1,236 1,100 1,096 1,277 1,407	Price (INR) IP (INR) 1,099 1,150 1,129 1,100 1,236 1,150 1,100 1,150 1,096 1,250 1,277 1,400 1,407 1,550	Price (INR) IP (INR) Rating 1,099 1,150 Add 1,129 1,100 Add 1,236 1,150 Add 1,100 1,150 Add 1,096 1,250 Add 1,277 1,400 Add 1,407 1,550 Add

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND

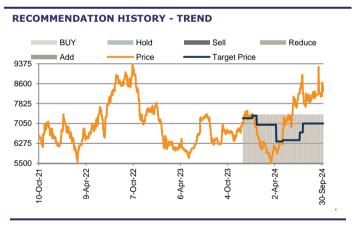


Source: Bloomberg, Company, Emkay Research

BLUE DART EXPRESS RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst	
20-Aug-24	7,979	7,050	Reduce	Anshul Agrawal	
19-Jul-24	8,208	7,050	Reduce	Anshul Agrawal	
07-Jul-24	8,227	6,700	Reduce	Anshul Agrawal	
03-May-24	6,822	6,400	Reduce	Anshul Agrawal	
08-Apr-24	6,012	6,350	Reduce	Anshul Agrawal	
22-Feb-24	6,231	7,000	Reduce	Anshul Agrawal	
24-Jan-24	6,875	7,000	Reduce	Anshul Agrawal	
15-Jan-24	7,267	7,350	Reduce	Anshul Agrawal	
07-Jan-24	7,417	7,350	Reduce	Anshul Agrawal	
24-Dec-23	7,342	7,250	Reduce	Anshul Agrawal	
01-Dec-23	7,061	7,250	Reduce	Anshul Agrawal	

Source: Company, Emkay Research



Source: Bloomberg, Company, Emkay Research

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Emkay Rating Distribution

Ratings	Expected Return within the next 12-18 months.
BUY	>15% upside
ADD	5-15% upside
REDUCE	5% upside to 15% downside
SELL	<15% downside

Emkay Global Financial Services Ltd.

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