MAY 13, 2024

## **Result Update**

#### Stock Details

Market cap (Rs crs)	:	4237
52-wk Hi/Lo (Rs)	:	1699/997
Face Value (Rs)	:	2
3M Avg. daily vol (Nos)	:	60000
Shares o/s (crs)	:	3.83
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Source: Moneycontrol, BSE

#### **Financial Summary**

Y/E Mar (Rs cr)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E			
Revenue	1,254	1,385	1,540			
Growth (%)	1.0	10.5	11.2			
EBITDA	187	217	242			
EBITDA margin (%)	14.9	15.7	15.7			
PAT	134	156	173			
EPS	34.9	40.7	45.2			
EPS Growth (%)	-3.9	16.7	11.0			
BV (Rs/share)	203.3	236.2	272.1			
Dividend/share (Rs)	10.0	12.0	14.0			
ROE (%)	18.4	18.5	17.8			
ROCE (%)	24.5	24.6	23.6			
P/E (x)	31.5	27.0	24.3			
EV/EBITDA (x)	21.3	18.3	16.4			
P/BV (x)	5.4	4.7	4.0			
Source: Company, Kotak Securities - PCG						

#### Shareholding Pattern (%)

(%)	Mar-24	Dec-23	Sep-23
Promoters	69.6	69.7	69.7
FII	2.4	2.9	3.1
DII	8.9	8.4	8.9
Others	19.1	19.0	18.3
Source: BSE			

#### **Price Performance (%)**

(%)	1M	3M	6M
TCI Express	(0.7)	(16.3)	(17.4)
Nifty	(2.1)	1.3	13.4
Source: BSE			

#### Price chart (Rs)



Source: Moneycontrol, BSE

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# TCI EXPRESS LTD (TCIEXP)

## **PRICE Rs.1100**

TARGET Rs.1490

### BUY

PRIVATE CLIENT GROUP

Weak performance continues/ long-term measures on - Q4 print was weak on expected lines and in line with industry trends. TCIEXP posted mediocre set of numbers for Q4 on revenue/ebidta/pat front with flattish revenues of Rs 317.2 cr (+1.7% gog and -2.8% yoy). The limited performance driven by higher capacity utilization of 83.5% and demand from MSME customers. Headwinds from muted demand and high inventory levels brought down the number of goods dispatched during the quarter. Performance looks weak considering improved performance of Bluedart in Q4. Management is confident of improvement in performance in future guarters. More sorting centers, new branches and new services like rail express will drive the top line and margins in the forthcoming guarters. Company claims to have a market share of 7% in express industry. We expect TCIEXP to report revenue and earnings CAGR of 10.5%/13.5% respectively over FY25 to FY26E, with improvement in operating margins and healthy return ratios and continue to recommend BUY on TCIEXP with a reduced TP of Rs 1490 (from Rs 1720) at 33x FY26E.

### **Key Highlights:**

- Total revenue for Q4 stood at Rs 317.2 cr (+1.7% qoq and -2.8% yoy). The limited performance driven by higher capacity utilization of 83.5% and demand from MSME customers. We believe competition within the express logistics industry and weakness in discretionary demand is negatively impacting the growth of TCIEXP.
- Competition, weak demand and inflation resulted in two year weak EBIDTA margin of 14.13% (down 245 bps yoy and 46 bps qoq) during quarter. However, margins were supported by higher capacity utilization of 83.5%, demand from MSME customers, operational efficiency and revenue contribution from newly launch services, especially from rail express.
- Other income, depreciation, interest cost and taxation were stable during the quarter.
- Consequently, company reported PAT of Rs 31.5 cr below our expectation of Rs 34 cr.
- Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of Rs 2 per share, taking the total dividend to Rs. 8 per share for FY24.
- Capex incurred during FY23 at Rs 125 cr, primarily spent towards land acquisition for setting up new automated sorting center in Kolkata and Ahmedabad and for new corporate office in Gurgaon. Capex of Rs. 46 cr incurred during FY24 primarily spent towards expansion of branch network, Automation and construction of new sorting centres.
- 35 new branches were added during FY23 and 25 in FY24 (5 in Q1FY24, 7 in Q2FY24, 3 in Q3FY24 and 10 in Q4FY24) to penetrate deeper in the key growing markets in West and South. TCIEXP is also looking to penetrate deeper in the key growing markets to cater the growing demand with Industry leading service

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Management claims, despite the economic headwind from muted demand during the quarter, we were able to maintain stable margins due to operational efficiencies and efficient capacity utilization. The contribution to revenue from newly launched services, particularly from rail express, has been steadily increasing.

#### **Consolidated Quarterly Performance**

Rs cr	Q4FY23	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Sales	326.3	311.8	317.1	1.7	-2.8
Operating expd	219.2	214.3	217.0	1.3	-1.0
Employee cost	31.4	33.5	33.6	0.3	7.0
Other cost	21.6	18.5	21.7	17.3	0.5
Total operating cost	272.2	266.3	272.3	2.3	0.0
EBIDTA	54.1	45.5	44.8	-1.5	-17.2
EBIDTA margin	16.58	14.59	14.13		
Depreciation	4.2	4.8	4.9	2.1	16.7
Interest	0.7	0.3	0.4		
Other income	1.7	2	1.9	-5.0	11.8
РВТ	50.9	42.4	41.4	-2.4	-18.7
Taxes	12.5	10.2	9.9	-2.9	-20.8
ETR (%)	24.56	24.06	23.91	-0.6	-2.6
Reported PAT	38.4	32.2	31.5	-2.2	-18.0
No of shares	3.85	3.85	3.85		
EPS	10.0	8.4	8.2	-2.2	-18.0

Source: Company, Kotak Securities- Private Client Group

## **Other highlights**

#### **Newly launched service**

Rail Express offering is getting good traction from customers with TCIEXP expanded customer base to 4500 (from 3000 in Q2FY24 and 4000 in Q3FY24) and presence from 10 routes to 125 routes since inception. TCI Express intends to have an asset light model in Rail express and buy space on the trains to ensure higher capacity utilization. An Independent team will manage this business offering. The newly launched services offerings are expected to contribute positively to the top line in the forthcoming quarters, enabling the company to deliver higher margin levels with sustainable growth.

## **Expanding Service Offering: Pharma Cold Chain Express**

TCIEXP continues to implement the asset-light model in the Pharma Cold Chain express logistics segment. Company will use existing hub and spoke network to meet the growing demand for Cold Chain express logistics. Company will dispatch pharma shipments either Frozen (Blood Plasma) or Vaccines under the prescribed temperature as norms ensuring there are no fluctuations in the temperature. Company will also dispatch frozen products as per FSSAI norms ensuring there are no fluctuations in the temperature. There will Monitoring of temperature maintained through Data Loggers and real-time monitoring through tracer.

Newly launched services contribute  $\sim$ 17% to the topline and are expected to contribute one-fourth in near future



#### Capex of Rs 500 cr planned over 5 years

On the investment side, during the FY23, TCIEXP incurred a capex of Rs 125 crores, primarily spent towards the acquisition of land for setting up new automated sorting center in Kolkata and Ahmedabad and for new corporate office in Gurgaon. Capex incurred during FY23 at Rs 125 cr, primarily spent towards land acquisition for setting up new automated sorting center in Kolkata and Ahmedabad and for new corporate office in Gurgaon. Capex of Rs. 46 cr incurred during FY24 primarily spent towards expansion of branch network, Automation and construction of new sorting centres.

TCIEXP will invest about Rs 500 cr over the next five years (FY23-28) to quadruple its sorting centre capacity and towards automation and enhancing technological capabilities. This capex will be funded entirely from internal accruals; nonetheless, the company is expected to generate positive FCF. We believe this scale of capacity expansion will cater to TCIEXP's demand needs for the next eight-ten years, which should help it generate high FCF after the capex phase is over.

The company achieved full automation at pune sorting centre (similar to Gurgaon), delivering 40% turnaround time reduction and enhanced operational efficiency with AI-enabled technology. This will further enhance our operational efficiencies and margins in the forthcoming quarters.

## Strong cash flow

There was strong cash flow from operation of Rs. 130 crores with robust CFO to EBITDA ratio of 70% in FY24. TCIEXP also had strong cash flow from operations (CFO) for FY23 at Rs 153 crore. Company continues to maintain strong CFO to EBITDA ratio of over 65%, which provides extensive flexibility the company continue to focus on balanced capital allocation. TCIEXP has efficient working capital management with robust capital structure and strong cash flow conversion cycle.

## Leading player, strong growth history

TCI express is leading ground express player with the company claiming to have a market share of ~7%. In CY16, Transport Corporation of India (TCI) completed the de-merger of its express division and over FY17 to FY23, despite Covid TCIEXP reported revenue CAGR of 6.2% and earnings CAGR of 21.2% with high return ratios. Q3 print was weak on expected lines and in line with industry trends. Company expects partial recovery in FY25 and full recovery in FY26. Going forward, we expect ecommerce, manufacturing and MSMEs to be the key demand drivers, while technology and logistical infrastructure will be key enablers for market expansion.







Source: Company

## **Valuation and outlook**

TCIEXP has delivered an impressive well-rounded performance (volume-led, marginally ahead-of-the-industry growth + cost saving and improvement in operating margins) over the past six years and emerged as a credible player in Express Industry. Company claims to have a market share of 7% in express industry. Q2FY24 performance looks weak considering the upcoming festive season in Oct and November. However, management is confident of improvement in performance in future quarters. More sorting centers, new branches and new services like rail express will drive the top line and margins in the forthcoming quarters. Company claims to have a market share of 7% in express industry.

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#### **Company Background**

TCI Express Ltd provides services for Surface Logistics and Air Logistics in B2B and Last Mile Logistics in the B2C division. It is a leader in door-to-door logistics, covering around 99% of districts in India with a global presence in 202 countries. The company provides value-added services such as collection on delivery for B2C, Sunday/holiday delivery services, customized solutions as per the customer specification, etc. The company is a market leader in surface logistics, and follows the hub and spoke model with 800+ branches, 28 sorting centers, 5000 containerized vehicles, ~2,00,000 customers, etc. (Source: Company)

## **Financials: Consolidated**

## Profit and Loss Statement (Rs cr)

(Year-end Mar)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Revenues	1,241	1,254	1,385	1,540
% change YoY	14.7	1.0	10.5	11.2
Operating cost	850	859	946	1,050
Employee cost	124	134	140	157
Other expenses	73	74	82	91
Total Operating expd	1,046	1,067	1,168	1,298
EBITDA	195	187	217	242
Depreciation	16	17	19	23
EBIT	179	170	198	219
Other income	7	7	9	11
Financial expense	2	2	2	2
Profit before tax	184	176	205	228
Тах	45	42	49	55
ETR (%)	24.6	24.0	24.0	24.0
Profit after tax	139	134	156	173
Minorities& Associates	0	0	0	0
Net income	139	134	156	173
% change YoY	6.0	-3.9	16.7	11.0
Shares outstanding (cr)	3.83	3.83	3.83	3.83
EPS	36.3	34.9	40.7	45.2

Source: Company, Kotak Securities – Private Client Group

#### Cash flow Statement (Rs cr)

(Year-end Mar)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
PAT	139	134	156	173
Depreciation+DTL	29	31	35	41
Change in working capital	(6)	(3)	(18)	(17)
Cash flow from operations	162	161	173	197
Capex	(164)	(46)	(73)	(108)
Investments	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)
Cash flow from investments	(174)	(56)	(83)	(118)
Equity issuance	(0)	-	-	-
Debt raised	-	-	-	-
Dividend Paid	(31)	(38)	(46)	(54)
Miscellanous items	-	-	-	-
Cash flow from financing	(31)	(38)	(46)	(54)
Net cash flow	(43)	66	44	26
Opening cash	97	54	121	165
Closing cash	54	121	165	191

Source: Company, Kotak Securities – Private Client Group



### Balance sheet (Rs cr)

(Year-end Mar)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Cash	54	121	165	191
Debtors	223	226	249	277
Inventory	0	0	0	0
Loans and advances	12	14	17	21
Other current assets	25	26	30	33
Total current assets	260	266	296	331
LT investments	20	30	40	50
Net fixed assets	448	477	530	615
Total assets	782	893	1,031	1,187
Creditors	89	90	100	115
Other current liabilities	7	7	8	9
Provisions	17	17	18	21
Total current liabilities	113	114	127	145
LT debt	0	0	0	0
Equity Capital	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7
Reserves	662	771	897	1,034
Networth	670	779	905	1,042
Total liabilities	782	893	1,031	1,187
BVPS (Rs)	174.8	203.3	236.2	272.1

Source: Company, Kotak Securities – Private Client Group

#### **Ratio Analysis**

(Year-end Mar)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
EBITDA margin (%)	15.7	14.9	15.7	15.7
EBIT margin (%)	14.4	13.6	14.3	14.2
Net profit margin (%)	11.2	10.7	11.3	11.2
ROE (%)	22.8	18.4	18.5	17.8
ROCE (%)	30.6	24.5	24.6	23.6
DPS	8.0	10.0	12.0	14.0
Dividend payout (%)	22.0	28.7	29.5	31.0
Working capital turnover (day	/s) 42.6	43.5	42.2	42.2
Debt Equity (x)	-	-	-	-
	20.2	01 5	07.0	04.0
PER (x)	30.3	31.5	27.0	24.3
P/C (x)	26.5	27.2	23.4	20.9
Dividend yield (%)	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.3
Р/В (х)	6.3	5.4	4.7	4.0
EV/Sales (x)	3.3	3.3	3.0	2.7
EV/ EBITDA (x)	20.5	21.3	18.3	16.4

Source: Company, Kotak Securities – Private Client Group



## **RATING SCALE (PRIVATE CLIENT GROUP)**

Definitions of ra	tings	
BUY	-	We expect the stock to deliver more than 15% returns over the next 12 months
ADD	-	We expect the stock to deliver 5% - 15% returns over the next 12 months
REDUCE	-	We expect the stock to deliver -5% - +5% returns over the next 12 months
SELL	-	We expect the stock to deliver < -5% returns over the next 12 months
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NA	-	Not Available or Not Applicable. The information is not available for display or is not applicable
NM	-	Not Meaningful. The information is not meaningful and is therefore excluded.
NOTE	-	Our target prices are with a 12-month perspective. Returns stated in the rating scale are our internal benchmark.

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Kotak Securities Limited. Registered Office: 27 BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400051. CIN: U99999MH1994PLC134051, Telephone No.: +22 43360000, Fax No.: +22 67132430. Website: www.kotak.com / www.kotaksecurities.com. Correspondence Address: Infinity IT Park, Bldg. No 21, Opp. Film City Road, A K Vaidya Marg, Malad (East), Mumbai 400097. Telephone No: 42856825. SEBI Registration No: INZ000200137 (Member of NSE, BSE, MSE, MCX & NCDEX), AMFI ARN 0164, PMS INP000000258 and Research Analyst INH000000586. NSDL/CDSL: IN-DP-629-2021. Compliance Officer Details: Mr. Hiren Thakkar. Call: 022 4285 8484, or Email: ks.compliance@kotak.com

In case you require any clarification or have any query/concern, kindly write to us atService.securities@kotak.com. For grievances write to KS.escalation@kotak.com and follow below Grievances Escalation matrix

Details of	Contact Person	Address	Contact No.	Email Id	Working Hours
Customer care/ Complaints	Mr. Ritesh Shah	Kotak Towers, 8th Floor, Building No.21, Infinity Park, Off Western Express Highway, Malad (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400097	18002099393	ks.escalation@kotak.com	9 a.m. to 6 p.m. All trading days
Head of Customer care	Mr. Tabrez Anwar	Kotak Towers, 8th Floor, Building No.21, Infinity Park, Off Western Express Highway, Malad (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400097	022-42858208	ks.servicehead@kotak.com	9 a.m. to 6 p.m. All trading days
Compliance Officer	Mr. Hiren Thakkar	Kotak Towers, 8th Floor, Building No.21, Infinity Park, Off Western Express Highway, Malad (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400097	022-42858484	ks.compliance@kotak.com	9 a.m. to 6 p.m. All trading days
CEO & Managing Director	Mr. Shripal Shah	Kotak Towers, 8th Floor, Building No.21, Infinity Park, Off Western Express Highway, Malad (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra – 400097	022-42858301	<u>ceo.ks@kotak.com</u>	9 a.m. to 6 p.m. All trading days

In absence of response/complaint not addressed to your satisfaction, you may lodge a complaint with SEBI at https://scores.sebi.gov.in/scores/Welcome.html or Exchange at https://investorhelpline.nseindia.com/NICEPLUS/, https://bsecrs.bseindia.com/ecomplaint/frmInvestorHome.aspx, Investor Service Centre | National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (ncdex.com), https://igrs.mcxindia.com/. Please quote your Service Ticket/Complaint Ref No. while raising your complaint SCORES/Exchange Depository https://www.epass.nsdl.com/complaints/websitecomplaints.aspx SEBI portal or at and https://www.cdslindia.com/Footer/grievances.complaints.aspx and https://www.cdslindia.com/Footer/grievances