

19 July 2025

## Polycab, India

*Strong start to FY26 with bright prospects, retaining a Buy*

**Strong execution in all segments led to Polycab's robust Q1 FY26. Resilient domestic demand and greater export momentum led to wires & cables strong, 25%, volume growth. Premiumization and a standout quarter for solar products strengthened the FMEG performance. Polycab is well-set to capitalise on structural demand tailwinds, focusing on domestic markets and scaling up exports. We, thus, retain a Buy rating, with a TP of Rs7,948 (earlier Rs7,485).**

**Beat on estimates.** Robust growth in all its business categories pushed up Q1 revenue a stellar 25.7% y/y to Rs59bn. Cable and wire revenue grew 31% y/y to Rs52.2bn, while FMEG revenue was up 18% y/y led by growth in major product categories except fans where growth was muted. Strategic pricing revisions, greater operational efficiency and a favourable business mix pulled up the EBITDA margin 210bps y/y to 14.5%. Staff cost rose 42% y/y; other expenses, 21.9% y/y. The 47% EBITDA growth pushed up net income 53% y/y to Rs6bn.

**Alignment with 'Project Spring' goals.** Polycab achieved its second consecutive profitable quarter in FMEG, expanded its premium portfolio and maintained strong momentum in wires & cables, all aligned with Project Spring's objectives. The strategy focuses on scaling up core businesses, accelerating premiumization, expanding exports and improving operating efficiency. Management re-iterated its confidence in achieving the project's FY30 goals: 1.5x industry growth, 11-13% wire and cable margins and 1.5–2x industry growth and 8–10% EBITDA margins in FMEG.

**Outlook, Valuation.** We expect the company to deliver an industry-leading performance and, hence, model 18%/22% revenue/net income CAGRs over FY25-27. At the CMP, the stock trades at 43x/35x FY26e/27e EPS of Rs161/199. We value the stock at 40x FY27e EPS of Rs199, maintaining our Buy rating with a higher TP of Rs7,948. **Risks:** Persistent slowdown in government infra spend could considerably cut growth, especially given the company's huge investment in capacity and branding. Sharp commodity-price volatility and increasing competitive intensity.

Rating: **Buy**

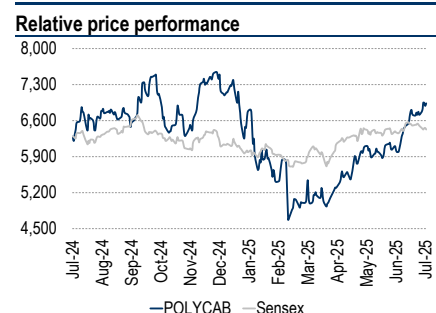
Target Price (12-mth): Rs.7,948

Share Price: Rs.6,923

Key data	POLYCAB IN
52-week high/low	Rs.7,607 / 4,557
Sensex/Nifty	81,758 / 24,968
Market cap	Rs.1,036bn
Shares outstanding	151m

Shareholding pattern (%)	Jun'25	Mar'25	Dec'24
Promoters	63.0	63.0	63.1
- of which Pledged	-	-	-
Free float	37.0	37.0	37.0
- Foreign Institutions	11.0	11.1	12.8
- Domestic Institutions	9.0	11.0	10.7
- Public	17.0	14.9	13.5

Estimates revision (%)	FY26e	FY27e
Sales	1.0	2.3
EBITDA	2.9	5.8
PAT	1.8	6.2



Source: Bloomberg

Key financials (YE: Mar)	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26e	FY27e
Sales (Rs m)	141,078	180,394	224,083	262,260	311,022
Net profit (Rs m)	12,708	17,840	20,201	24,160	29,852
EPS (Rs)	84.9	118.9	133.8	160.8	198.7
PE (x)	85.6	58.2	51.7	43.0	34.8
EV / EBITDA (x)	43.3	42.9	34.5	28.4	23.1
P / BV (x)	16.4	12.7	10.6	8.9	7.4
RoE (%)	20.9	24.1	22.4	22.5	23.3
RoIC (%) – post-tax	18.2	20.5	19.9	19.7	20.1
RoCE (%) – post-tax	26.7	31.5	29.3	28.6	30.1
Net debt / equity (x)	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

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Research Analyst

**Surbhi Lodha**  
Research Analyst

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## Quick Glance – Financials and Valuations

**Fig 1 – Income statement (Rs m)**

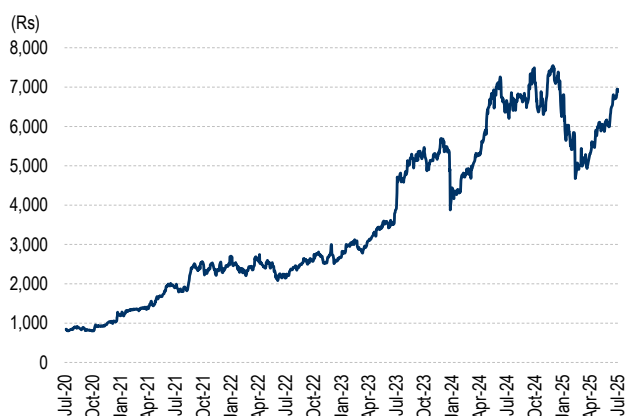
Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26e	FY27e
Net revenues	141,078	180,394	224,083	262,260	311,022
Growth (%)	15.6	27.9	24.2	17.0	18.6
Direct costs	103,757	128,060	155,731	186,205	220,825
SG&A	18,799	27,417	38,749	40,495	46,894
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>18,521</b>	<b>24,918</b>	<b>29,603</b>	<b>35,560</b>	<b>43,302</b>
EBITDA margins (%)	13.1	13.8	13.2	13.6	13.9
- Depreciation	2,092	2,450	2,981	3,827	4,464
Other income	1,333	2,209	2,076	2,623	3,110
Interest expenses	598	1,083	1,689	1,587	1,529
PBT	17,165	23,593	27,009	32,769	40,419
Effective tax rates (%)	24.7	23.6	24.3	25.6	25.6
+ Associates / (Minorities)	-216	-189	-255	-220	-220
Net income	12,708	17,840	20,201	24,160	29,852
Adj. income	12,708	17,840	20,201	24,160	29,852
WANS	150	150	151	151	151
FDEPS (Rs)	84.9	118.9	133.8	160.8	198.7
FDEPS growth (%)	51.5	40.0	12.5	19.6	23.6
Gross margins (%)	26.5	29.0	30.5	30.0	30.0

**Fig 3 – Cash-flow statement (Rs m)**

Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26e	FY27e
PBT	17,073	23,593	27,009	32,769	40,419
+ Non-cash items	2,092	2,450	2,981	3,827	4,464
Oper. prof. before WC	19,164	26,043	29,990	36,596	44,883
- Incr. / (decr.) in WC	-1,058	-8,090	-6,099	-6,617	-8,229
Others incl. taxes	-3,831	-4,991	-5,805	-9,425	-11,928
Operating cash-flow	14,275	12,962	18,085	20,555	24,725
- Capex (tang. + intang.)	-4,584	-8,580	-9,583	-10,299	-10,394
Free cash-flow	9,691	4,383	8,502	10,255	14,331
Acquisitions					
- Div. (incl. buyback & taxes)	-2,094	-2,997	-4,511	-6,009	-6,009
+ Equity raised	-	-	-	-	-
+ Debt raised	332	194	498	-	-
- Fin investments	-5,213	-3,839	1,956	-1,749	-1,924
- Misc. (CFI + CFF)	-32	-54	-585	-	-
Net cash-flow	(22)	1,570	(591)	3,533	7,979

Source: Company

**Fig 5 – Price movement**



Source: Bloomberg

**Fig 2 – Balance sheet (Rs m)**

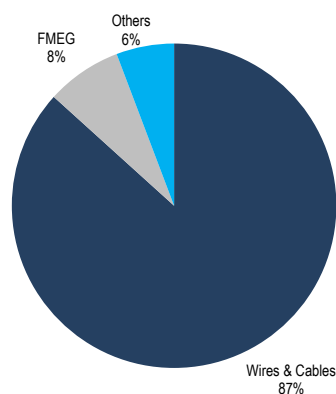
Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26e	FY27e
Share capital	1,498	1,502	1,504	1,504	1,504
Net worth	66,372	81,871	98,250	116,401	140,243
Debt	730	898	1,090	1,090	1,090
Minority interest	374	562	818	1,038	1,258
DTL / (Assets)	409	415	785	785	785
<b>Capital employed</b>	<b>67,885</b>	<b>83,746</b>	<b>100,943</b>	<b>119,313</b>	<b>143,376</b>
Net tangible assets	20,466	22,406	29,222	35,276	40,706
Net intangible assets	157	160	98	98	98
Goodwill	46	46	-	-	-
CWIP (tang. & intang.)	2,508	5,784	7,081	7,500	8,000
Investments (strategic)	-	763	790	790	790
Investments (financial)	13,505	18,224	17,490	19,239	21,163
Current assets (excl. cash)	50,607	70,016	75,887	88,325	104,035
Cash	6,952	4,024	7,707	11,240	19,219
Current liabilities	26,356	36,914	36,544	42,365	49,846
Working capital	24,251	33,102	39,343	45,960	54,189
<b>Capital deployed</b>	<b>67,885</b>	<b>83,746</b>	<b>100,943</b>	<b>119,313</b>	<b>143,376</b>
Contingent liabilities	297	583	681		

**Fig 4 – Ratio analysis**

Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26e	FY27e
P/E (x)	85.6	58.2	51.7	43.0	34.8
EV / EBITDA (x)	43.3	42.9	34.5	28.4	23.1
EV / Sales (x)	5.7	5.9	4.6	3.9	3.2
P/B (x)	16.4	12.7	10.6	8.9	7.4
RoE (%)	20.9	24.1	22.4	22.5	23.3
RoCE (%) - after tax	18.2	20.5	19.9	19.7	20.1
RoIC (%) - after tax	26.7	31.5	29.3	28.6	30.1
DPS (Rs)	20.0	30.0	35.0	40.0	40.0
Dividend yield (%)	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
Dividend payout (%) - incl. DDT	23.5	25.2	26.2	24.9	20.1
Net debt / equity (x)	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3
Receivables (days)	32	41	42	42	42
Inventory (days)	76	74	60	60	60
Payables (days)	53	58	45	45	45
CFO : PAT %	112.3	72.7	89.5	85.1	82.8

Source: Company

**Fig 6 – Revenue mix, Q1 FY26**



Source: Company

Fig 7 – Financial performance

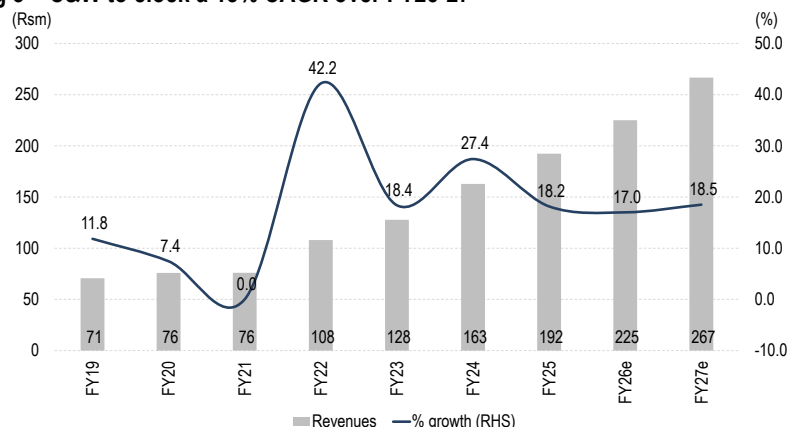
(Rs m)	Q1 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25	Q2 FY25	Q3 FY25	Q4 FY25	Q1 FY26e	% Y/Y	% Q/Q
<b>Income</b>	<b>38,894</b>	<b>42,177</b>	<b>43,405</b>	<b>55,919</b>	<b>46,980</b>	<b>54,984</b>	<b>52,261</b>	<b>69,858</b>	<b>59,060</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>(15.5)</b>
Raw material costs	28,581	30,739	31,692	41,792	35,415	42,025	38,807	52,053	43,188	21.9	(17.0)
Employee costs	1,349	1,557	1,494	1,696	1,539	1,803	1,989	2,036	2,189	42.2	7.5
Other expenses	3,478	3,792	4,524	4,816	4,192	4,841	4,265	5,515	5,107	21.8	(7.4)
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>5,486</b>	<b>6,089</b>	<b>5,695</b>	<b>7,615</b>	<b>5,834</b>	<b>6,316</b>	<b>7,199</b>	<b>10,254</b>	<b>8,576</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>(16.4)</b>
Depreciation	571	603	619	657	671	721	786	804	857	27.7	6.6
Finance costs	249	268	322	244	413	453	498	325	513	24.1	57.5
Other income	640	353	710	538	584	762	250	481	799	36.9	66.3
Exceptional items	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>PBT</b>	<b>5,305</b>	<b>5,572</b>	<b>5,464</b>	<b>7,253</b>	<b>5,334</b>	<b>5,904</b>	<b>6,166</b>	<b>9,606</b>	<b>8,006</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>(16.7)</b>
Tax	1,273	1,274	1,299	1,718	1,317	1,451	1,522	2,262	2,009	52.5	(11.2)
<b>PAT</b>	<b>3,996</b>	<b>4,256</b>	<b>4,128</b>	<b>5,460</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>4,398</b>	<b>4,576</b>	<b>7,267</b>	<b>6,073</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>(16.4)</b>
EPS (Rs)	26.6	28.3	27.5	36.4	26.3	29.3	30.5	48.4	40.4	53.5	(16.4)
<b>As % of income</b>										<b>bps y/y</b>	<b>bps q/q</b>
<b>Gross margins</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>(81)</b>	<b>(123)</b>
Employee costs	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.8	2.9	3.7	43	79
Other expenses	8.9	9.0	10.4	8.6	8.9	8.8	8.2	7.9	8.6	(28)	75
<b>EBITDA margins</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>(16)</b>
Depreciation	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.5	2	30
Finance costs	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.9	(1)	40
Other income	1.6	0.8	1.6	1.0	1.2	1.4	0.5	0.7	1.4	11	67
<b>PBT margins</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>(19)</b>
Effective tax rates	24.0	22.9	23.8	23.7	24.7	24.6	24.7	23.5	25.1	39	154
<b>PAT margins</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>(36)</b>
<b>Segment revenues (Rs m)</b>										<b>% Y/Y</b>	<b>% Q/Q</b>
Wires & Cables	35,338	38,047	39,041	49,197	39,956	47,200	44,499	60,191	52,286	30.9	(13.1)
FMEG	3,145	3,300	2,962	3,581	3,855	3,975	4,232	4,760	4,542	17.8	(4.6)
Others	1,528	2,015	2,475	4,108	4,279	5,852	3,918	6,028	3,474	(18.8)	(42.4)
Less: Inter-segmental	781	1,074	701	757	908	1,591	580	1,058	1,057	16.3	(0.1)
<b>Mix (%)</b>											
Wires & Cables	90.1	90.0	89.2	87.6	84.7	85.1	85.5	86.1	88.3		
FMEG	8.0	7.8	6.8	6.4	8.2	7.2	8.1	6.8	7.7		
<b>Segment EBIT (%)</b>										<b>bps y/y</b>	<b>bps q/q</b>
Wires & Cables	14.8	14.6	14.0	15.3	12.8	12.3	13.7	15.1	14.7	191	(41)
FMEG	(1.8)	(1.8)	(12.4)	(12.8)	(0.7)	(6.4)	(3.0)	0.4	2.1	283	170
Others	12.0	11.2	15.9	5.1	9.1	11.8	8.7	9.4	7.7	(136)	(166)

Source: Company

## Q1 FY26 concall takeaways

### Robust cable and wire outlook

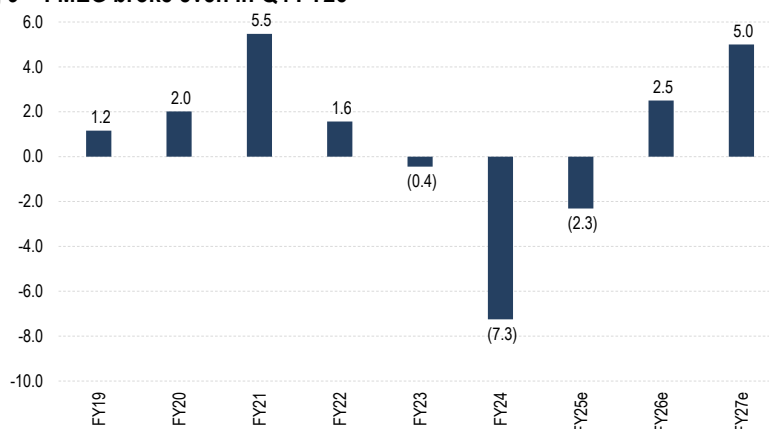
- Wires and cables delivered a strong performance in Q1, healthy 31% y/y growth supported by **>25% volume growth**. Q1 growth was fuelled by more government spending, better project execution and rising commodity prices. The domestic business grew 32% y/y, with cables outstripping wires and channel and institutional segments showing healthy momentum. Regionally, the South led the growth trajectory, followed by the North, East and West, highlighting the company's deep and broad **all-India operations**. Exports grew 24% y/y on a low base and contributed ~5.2% to overall revenue. Management re-iterated its confidence to grow as guided (1.5x of real GDP) under Project Spring.
- Cables brought ~74% to W&C revenue; wires the rest. The strong growth was led by low and medium voltage cables, driven by infrastructure, data centres and real estate. While real estate demand in top-tier cities moderated, demand from tier-3 to -5 towns is picking up markedly, particularly in affordable housing, where the company's brand "Etira" has been gaining traction and contributes a high-teen share to wire sales. Premium offerings (Maxima, Suprema; ~20%+ of sales of wires) continue to do well in metros and larger urban centres.
- Revenue from international operations grew 24% y/y in Q1. North America and the Mid-East are major markets with minimal impact from Chinese pricing in most regions except Australia. The US contributes **~1/3 of exports**. The product mix is focused on **low/medium voltage cables**, avoiding direct competition with global high-voltage-focused manufacturers. The company continues to benefit from favourable tariff differences, with Indian cable exports attracting significantly lower duties (10%) than China (55%) and Mexico (30%), enhancing its competitiveness in key global markets.
- With strong order visibility, ongoing global infrastructure upgrades, rising data centres and renewable investments, management is confident of sustained export growth and expects it to bring >10% (5% in Q1 FY26) to consolidated revenue over FY26-30 under Project Spring, from operations in 80+ countries (end-FY25).
- The EBIT margin was a healthy 14.7%, up 190bps y/y, driven by strategic price revisions, greater operational efficiency and a favourable product mix.
- The company has steadily increased its market share in India's formal W&C market, to ~26-27% at end-FY25 (18-19% in FY19); the share of cables was ~30%, wires early 20%, reflecting consistent growth and market dominance.
- Management said the demand momentum in W&C continues to be strong and will absorb the coming industry capacity additions, without impacting the industry's growth momentum.
- Ahead, the company guided to 11-13% EBITDA margins for cables and wires in the long run, with a greater proportion of higher-margin exports. However, low operating leverage due to capacity expansion, more investments in R&D and ad spends will keep margins in check.

**Fig 8 – C&W to clock a 18% CAGR over FY25-27**

Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

**FMEG turnaround**

- The FMEG segment reported 18% y/y growth in Q1 with solar products becoming the largest contributor. It has achieved a second consecutive profitable quarter with 2.1% EBIT margins after 10 straight quarters of investment in talent, product innovation and brand building, highlighting the success of its long-term strategy. Margin improvement was driven by portfolio-wide gross margin expansion, supported by a shift to premium products and greater operating leverage from scale efficiencies. The company is aligned with its Project Spring roadmap: 1.5–2x industry growth, 8–10% FMEG EBITDA margins by FY30.
- Growth in fans, however, was muted, impacted by a short summer, which curtailed seasonal demand. Yet the company did well in its premiumisation strategy; premium fans make up 25% of the segment sales, premium lighting products over 35%, driving gross-margin gains.
- In switches, the premium line Levana brought ~20% to revenue, highlighting strong consumer preference for value-added, design-led products. Sales of switchgear (high-margin, lower-competition products) also benefited from a higher mix of RCCBs and multi-pole MCBs, aligned with the brand's safety-first positioning
- E-com continues to expand its role, contributing a mid-teen percent of revenue in fans, particularly aiding the distribution of premium ones
- Ad-spend was subdued in Q1 FY26 due to the early monsoon. However, the company plans to retain its annual A&P guidance of **3–5% of B2C revenue**, with a continued focus on digital and brand-building efforts.
- The company is focusing on broadening its reach, product development and brand-building, which would lead to profitability in FMEG. Also, scaling up and higher capacity utilisation would result in better operating leverage, which would aid margins.
- Solar products continued their robust growth trajectory, posting >2x y/y growth and emerging as the leading category in FMEG with demand driven by Central and state-level rooftop solar subsidy schemes. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, MP, TN and Telangana are key contributors.

**Fig 9 – FMEG broke even in Q4 FY25**

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

### EPC business

- EPC revenue fell 19% y/y due to project phasing and timing-related execution delays. While near-term revenue moderated, the company noted that the **order book is robust**, providing strong revenue assurance in coming quarters with overall annual targets intact. Execution is expected to pick up from H2, to <10% of total revenue.
- The order book for EPC mainly comprises projects won under the government's RDSS (to revamp power generation and distribution capacities). The order book was Rs80bn from Bharat Net, to be executed in 2-3 years. The receivables cycle is efficient with upfront payments (~10% of contract value) improving the cash-flow.
- The company expects mid- to high-single-digit margins in the near term from this business (Bharat Net margin guidance: 12–14%, RDSS: high single digits.)

### Annual capex

- Under Project Spring, capex is guided to be Rs60bn-80bn in five years translating to Rs12bn-16bn annually. In Q1 FY26, the company incurred Rs4.41bn for W&C and strengthening backward integration capabilities. Working capital days are expected to normalise at 50-55.

## Outlook, Valuations

**Outlook, estimate revision.** Aided by government capex and private sector investment, Polycab expects good demand momentum for its core Wires & Cables business. In FMEG, premiumization, solar-led growth and e-com traction are expected to drive top-line and margin expansion. Execution in the EPC segment is set to accelerate from H2 with the rollout of BharatNet.

Being a market leader, the company is set to capitalise on strong demand for cables and wires from infrastructure, real estate and industrials. It is well placed in other aspects of FMEG, where it is backward integrated in manufacturing, and with operations across price points all over India. Better operating leverage and the shift in product mix toward premium categories would boost margins.

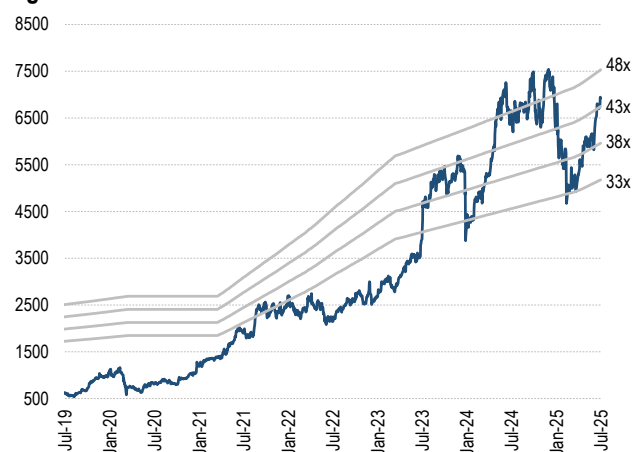
Backed by a strong balance sheet, clear strategic direction under Project Spring and disciplined capital allocation, Polycab is well-placed for sustained revenue growth and greater profitability. Considering its robust demand prospects (domestic, exports), we expect an industry-leading performance. Hence, we model 18%/22% revenue/net income CAGRs over FY25-27. On good visibility post Q1, we raise our EPS estimates. At the CMP, the stock trades at 43x/35x FY26e/27e EPS of Rs161/199. We value it at 40x FY27e EPS of Rs199, retaining our Buy recommendation with a Rs7,948 TP.

**Fig 10 – Estimates change**

	New		Old		Variance (%)	
(Rs m)	FY26e	FY27e	FY26e	FY27e	FY26	FY27
Revenue	262,260	311,022	2,59,716	3,04,175	1.0	2.3
EBITDA	35,560	43,302	34,570	40,937	2.9	5.8
EBITDA (%)	13.6	13.9	13.3	13.5		
PBT	32,769	40,419	32,191	38,080	1.8	6.1
Net income	24,160	29,852	23,730	28,112	1.8	6.2
Net income (%)	9.2	9.6	9.1	9.2		
EPS	160.8	198.7	158.0	187.1	1.8	6.2

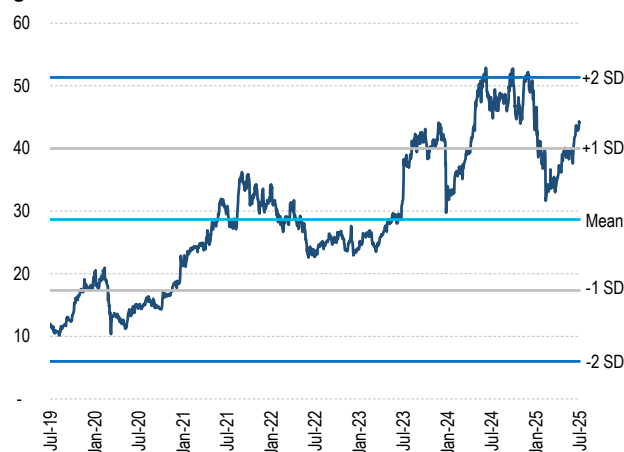
Source: Anand Rathi Research

**Fig 11 – P/E trades at 43x**



Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

**Fig 12 – The stock trades around its +1SD band**



Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

**Risks**

- Persistent slowdown in demand for cables and wires could crimp earnings sustainability.
- Slowdown in the government's infra spend could considerably cut growth, especially given the company's huge investment in capacity and branding.
- Traction in new FMEG categories could aid margins and is key for FY26 and FY27
- Stiffer competition as capacity additions by large operators may lead to pricing pressure and margin volatility.



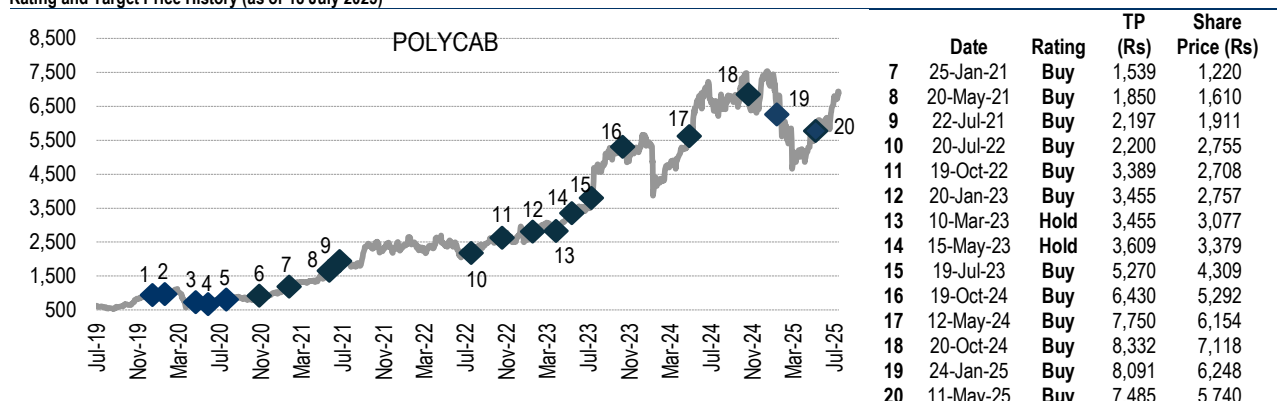
## Appendix

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