# Ahluwalia Contracts | BUY

## Strong quarter; margins to remain strong

Ahluwalia Contracts' (ACIL) reported strong results in 2Q26 as PAT at INR 791mn (up 2.1x YoY) above JMFe of INR 576mn (consensus: INR 561mn) led by higher revenue/margins. EBITDA margin expanded 360bps YoY to 10.9% led by better project mix. Execution of CSMT project will pick up pace as design nears completion while Gems and Jewellery Park project remains delayed as ACIL expects execution to start in 4Q26. ACIL maintained FY26 revenue growth guidance of 15-20% and is confident of 10%+ margins (1H26: 9.8%). Led by strong YTD inflows of INR 44bn, L1 position of INR 16bn and robust bid pipeline of INR 65bn, ACIL targets order inflows of INR 80bn+ for FY26E. We have slightly moderated FY26/27 revenue estimates amid delay in start of few projects leading to EPS cuts of 1%/4% in FY26/27E. We expect robust EPS CAGR of 33% over FY25-28E. We like ACIL given its asset light business, lean balance sheet, consistent FCF generation and strong return ratios despite moderate margins. ACIL is currently trading at 16.6x/14x FY27/28E EPS. Maintain BUY with a revised price target of INR 1230 (19x FY27 EPS).

- Earnings beat led by higher revenue/margins: Revenue grew by 16% YoY to INR 11.8bn (JMFe: INR 10.5bn) led by stronger backlog. EBITDA grew sharply by 75% YoY to INR 1.3bn (JMFe: INR 945mn), while EBITDA margin expanded sharply by 360bps YoY to 10.9% (JMFe: 9%) led by better project mix. Interest costs at INR 149mn was above JMFe of INR 125mn due to higher mobilization advances. Adjusted PAT grew sharply by 2.1x YoY to INR 791mn (JMFe: INR 576mn) led by higher revenue/margins.
- Order backlog strong at INR 181bn; execution for big ticket projects to pick-up in FY27: With robust inflows of c.INR 44bn in 1H26, ACIL's order backlog strengthened to INR 181bn (4.2× TTM revenues) as of Sept-25. With a strong bid pipeline of c.INR 65bn and L1 position of INR 16bn, ACIL expects inflows of INR 80bn for FY26E. Execution of the CSMT project will pick up pace as design nears completion and ACIL expects c.INR 4bn revenue from it in FY26E. EC for a Gems & Jewellery project has been received and initial ground-work has commenced. ACIL expects to execute 30-35% of this project in FY27E. ACIL does not have any major NWC issues apart from c. INR 700mn stuck in Maharashtra and Assam on account of GST revision which should normalize in 2H26.
- FY26 guidance maintained on all fronts: ACIL has maintained its revenue guidance growth of 15-20% for FY26E with further up-tick in execution expected from 3Q26 onwards. It is confident of delivering double digit margins in FY26E (1H26: 9.8%). ACIL plans to incur capex of INR 4bn/INR 3bn for FY26E/FY27E as several big ticket projects are likely to kick off in 2H26/FY27 and it plans to invest in heavy machinery.
- Maintain BUY with revised price target of INR 1230: We like ACIL due its asset light business, lean balance sheet, consistent FCF generation over last decade and strong return ratios despite moderate margins. Robust order backlog of INR 181bn (4.2x TTM revenue) provides strong growth visibility over next couple of years. We have slightly moderated FY26/27E revenue estimates amid delay in start of few projects leading to EPS cuts of 1%/4% in FY26/27E. Having said that, we expect robust EPS CAGR of 33% over FY25-28E. We like ACIL given its asset light business, lean balance sheet, consistent FCF generation and strong return ratios despite moderate margins. ACIL is currently trading at 16.6x/14x FY27/28E EPS. Maintain BUY with a revised price target of INR 1230 (19x FY27E EPS).



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Recommendation and Price Target	
Current Reco.	BUY
Previous Reco.	BUY
Current Price Target (12M)	1,230
Upside/(Downside)	25.3%
Previous Price Target	1,175
Change	4.7%

Key Data – AHLU IN	
Current Market Price	INR982
Market cap (bn)	INR65.8/US\$0.7
Free Float	45%
Shares in issue (mn)	67.0
Diluted share (mn)	67.0
3-mon avg daily val (mn)	INR42.0/US\$0.5
52-week range	1,175/620
Sensex/Nifty	84,951/26,013
INR/US\$	88.6

Price Perform	ance		
%	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	4.2	5.6	-1.6
Relative*	3.0	2.3	-10.1

\* To the BSE Sensex

Financial Summary					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	38,553	40,986	48,364	59,004	70,805
Sales Growth (%)	35.8	6.3	18.0	22.0	20.0
EBITDA	3,885	3,418	5,011	6,316	7,582
EBITDA Margin (%)	10.1	8.3	10.4	10.7	10.7
Adjusted Net Profit	2,296	2,015	3,179	3,968	4,703
Diluted EPS (INR)	34.3	30.1	47.5	59.2	70.2
Diluted EPS Growth (%)	18.3	-12.3	57.8	24.8	18.5
ROIC (%)	22.5	17.0	21.2	22.0	22.5
ROE (%)	16.2	11.8	16.3	17.2	17.2
P/E (x)	21.9	35.8	20.7	16.6	14.0
P/B (x)	3.1	4.0	3.1	2.6	2.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.0	18.3	11.2	8.7	7.0
Dividend Viold (%)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Source: Company data, JM Financial. Note: Valuations as of 17/Nov/2025

JM Financial Research is also available on: Bloomberg - JMFR <GO>, FactSet, LSEG and S&P Capital IQ.

Please see Appendix I at the end of this report for Important Disclosures and Disclaimers and Research Analyst Certification.

Exhibit 1. Standalone quarterly results											
Particulars (INR mn)	2QFY25	3QFY25	4QFY25	FY25	1QFY26	2QFY26	2QFY26E	Variance	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	10,115	9,520	12,158	40,986	10,049	11,773	10,500	12.1%	48,364	59,004	70,805
EBIDTA	734	844	1,236	3,418	863	1,286	945	36.1%	5,011	6,316	7,582
EBIDTA margin (%)	7.3	8.9	10.2	8.3	8.6	10.9	9.0		10.4	10.7	10.7
Other income	117	149	180	554	159	150	160	-6.3%	687	798	807
Depreciation	166	180	171	666	207	223	210	6.2%	916	1,236	1,464
Interest	160	145	128	581	119	149	125	19.0%	534	575	640
PBT	525	667	1,117	2,724	695	1,064	770	38.2%	4,248	5,303	6,285
Tax	141	173	286	709	184	273	194	41.0%	1,069	1,335	1,582
Effective tax rate (%)	26.9	25.9	25.6	26.0	26.4	25.7	25.2		25.2	25.2	25.2
PAT	384	494	832	2,015	511	791	576	37.3%	3,179	3,968	4,703
Extra-ordinary items	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
Reported PAT	384	494	832	2,015	511	791	576	37.3%	3,179	3,968	4,703
YoY Growth (%)											
Net sales	12.2	(7.3)	4.5	6.3	9.3	16.4			18.0	22.0	20.0
EBITDA	(18.3)	(24.6)	18.6	(12.0)	42.7	75.2			46.6	26.0	20.0
Other income	38.4	64.7	46.0	51.1	47.1	28.0			24.0	16.2	1.2
Interest	39.4	18.7	(5.3)	20.8	(19.1)	(7.1)			(8.1)	7.6	11.4
Depreciation	31.9	32.5	(41.0)	(0.3)	38.2	34.6			37.4	35.0	18.4
PBT	(29.2)	(29.8)	50.7	(12.2)	67.5	102.6			56.0	24.8	18.5
Adjusted PAT	(30.6)	(30.1)	54.1	(12.3)	67.0	106.1			57.8	24.8	18.5
Reported PAT	(30.6)	(30.1)	(58.4)	(46.3)	67.0	106.1			57.8	24.8	18.5

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 2. Change in estimates									
INR mn		FY26E			FY27E			FY28E	
	New	Old	YoY (%)	New	Old	YoY (%)	New	Old	YoY (%)
Net Sales	48,364	49,183	(1.7)	59,004	61,479	(4.0)	70,805	70,701	0.1
EBITDA	5,011	5,007	0.1	6,316	6,604	(4.4)	7,582	7,595	(0.2)
EBITDA margin %	10.4	10.2		10.7	10.7		10.7	10.7	_
Adj. PAT	3,179	3,213	(1.1)	3,968	4,142	(4.2)	4,703	4,767	(1.3)
Diluted EPS	47.5	48.0	(1.1)	59.2	61.8	(4.2)	70.2	71.2	(1.3)

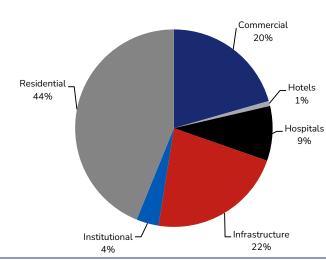
Source: Company, JM Financial

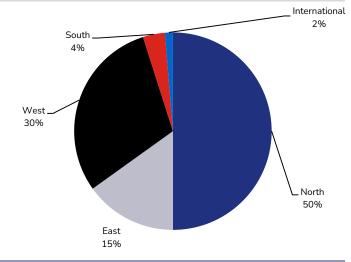
Exhibit 3. Key assumptions									
INR mn	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E				
Order inflows	65,368	84,370	80,000	90,000	1,00,000				
EBITDA Margins (%)	10.1	8.3	10.4	10.7	10.7				
Effective tax rate (%)	26.0	26.0	25.2	25.2	25.2				
Net WC days*	70	50	60	60	60				
Capex (INR mn)	1,072	1,815	3,750	3,000	3,500				

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 4. Segmental mix of order backlog (INR 181bn - Sept'25)







Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 6. Price target of INR 1,230									
INR mn	Rationale	PAT	Multiple (x)	Value	Value per share				
EPC business	PEx Sept-27E PAT	4,336	19	82,378	1,230				
Target price					1,230				

Source: Company, JM Financial

## Key conference call takeaways

- **FY26 guidance**: Revenue growth: 15-20% YoY growth; EBITDA margins: double digits (1H26: 9.8%); Order inflows: INR 80bn (YTD: INR 44bn + L1 of INR 16bn); Capex: INR 3.5-4bn.
- Projects update: CSMT execution to pick up pace as design is coming to close and targets revenue of c.INR 4bn in FY26; Environment clearance for Gems & Jewellery project has been received and initial work on the ground has started. ACIL expects 30-35% execution of the project in FY27.
- ACIL plans to handover the Varanasi airport project by July-27 and Darbhanga airport project by Oct-26. ACIL is not facing any payment related issues in these projects.
- Bid pipeline robust at INR 65bn, strong from both private and public sector.
- NWC largely in place: c.INR 700mn has been stuck in Maharashtra and Assam on account of GST revision which should be realised in 2H26.



Source: Bloomberg

## Financial Tables (Standalone)

Income Statement				(1	NR mn)
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	38,553	40,986	48,364	59,004	70,805
Sales Growth	35.8%	6.3%	18.0%	22.0%	20.0%
Other Operating Income	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	38,553	40,986	48,364	59,004	70,805
Cost of Goods Sold/Op. Exp	31,236	33,199	38,360	47,079	56,714
Personnel Cost	2,824	3,516	4,026	4,428	5,092
Other Expenses	608	853	967	1,180	1,416
EBITDA	3,885	3,418	5,011	6,316	7,582
EBITDA Margin	10.1%	8.3%	10.4%	10.7%	10.7%
EBITDA Growth	27.7%	-12.0%	46.6%	26.0%	20.0%
Depn. & Amort.	669	666	916	1,236	1,464
EBIT	3,217	2,752	4,096	5,080	6,118
Other Income	366	554	687	798	807
Finance Cost	481	581	534	575	640
PBT before Excep. & Forex	3,102	2,724	4,248	5,303	6,285
Excep. & Forex Inc./Loss(-)	0	0	0	0	0
PBT	3,102	2,724	4,248	5,303	6,285
Taxes	806	709	1,069	1,335	1,582
Extraordinary Inc./Loss(-)	-1,459	0	0	0	0
Assoc. Profit/Min. Int.(-)	0	0	0	0	0
Reported Net Profit	838	2,015	3,179	3,968	4,703
Adjusted Net Profit	2,296	2,015	3,179	3,968	4,703
Net Margin	6.0%	4.9%	6.6%	6.7%	6.6%
Diluted Share Cap. (mn)	67.0	67.0	67.0	67.0	67.0
Diluted EPS (INR)	34.3	30.1	47.5	59.2	70.2
Diluted EPS Growth	18.3%	-12.3%	57.8%	24.8%	18.5%
Total Dividend + Tax	33	40	63	79	94
Dividend Per Share (INR)	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.4

Balance Sheet					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Shareholders' Fund	16,021	18,001	21,116	25,005	29,615
Share Capital	134	134	134	134	134
Reserves & Surplus	15,887	17,867	20,982	24,871	29,481
Preference Share Capital	0	0	0	0	0
Minority Interest	0	0	0	0	0
Total Loans	450	140	0	0	0
Def. Tax Liab. / Assets (-)	-325	-352	-352	-352	-352
Total - Equity & Liab.	16,146	17,789	20,765	24,654	29,263
Net Fixed Assets	3,385	4,624	7,459	9,222	11,259
Gross Fixed Assets	5,947	7,762	11,512	14,512	18,012
Intangible Assets	0	47	47	47	47
Less: Depn. & Amort.	2,635	3,254	4,170	5,406	6,870
Capital WIP	73	69	69	69	69
Investments	63	63	63	63	63
Current Assets	28,190	32,033	34,338	40,464	48,170
Inventories	3,158	3,392	3,678	4,514	5,438
Sundry Debtors	7,811	8,130	7,288	8,891	10,669
Cash & Bank Balances	7,803	9,641	9,582	10,881	12,457
Loans & Advances	7	8	9	11	14
Other Current Assets	9,411	10,862	13,780	16,165	19,592
Current Liab. & Prov.	15,493	18,931	21,095	25,095	30,229
Current Liabilities	7,000	8,472	8,408	9,932	12,741
Provisions & Others	8,492	10,459	12,687	15,163	17,488
Net Current Assets	12,697	13,102	13,243	15,369	17,941
Total – Assets	16,146	17,789	20,765	24,654	29,263

Source: Company, JM Financial

**Dupont Analysis** 

Source: Company, JM Financial

Cash Flow Statement	Cash Flow Statement (INR mn)							
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E			
Profit before Tax	3,102	2,724	4,248	5,303	6,285			
Depn. & Amort.	669	666	916	1,236	1,464			
Net Interest Exp. / Inc. (-)	481	581	534	575	640			
Inc (-) / Dec in WCap.	-1,667	1,434	-200	-826	-997			
Others	1,459	0	0	0	0			
Taxes Paid	-862	-734	-1,069	-1,335	-1,582			
Operating Cash Flow	3,182	4,671	4,428	4,953	5,810			
Capex	-1,137	-1,858	-3,750	-3,000	-3,500			
Free Cash Flow	2,046	2,813	678	1,953	2,310			
Inc (-) / Dec in Investments	0	0	0	0	0			
Others	0	0	0	0	0			
Investing Cash Flow	-1,137	-1,858	-3,750	-3,000	-3,500			
Inc / Dec (-) in Capital	0	0	0	0	0			
Dividend + Tax thereon	-33	-40	-63	-79	-94			
Inc / Dec (-) in Loans	423	-310	-140	0	0			
Others	-512	-625	-534	-575	-640			
Financing Cash Flow	-123	-975	-737	-654	-734			
Inc / Dec (-) in Cash	1,923	1,838	-59	1,299	1,575			
Opening Cash Balance	5,880	7,803	9,641	9,582	10,881			
Closing Cash Balance	7,803	9,641	9,582	10,881	12,457			

Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Margin	6.0%	4.9%	6.6%	6.7%	6.6%
Asset Turnover (x)	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6
Leverage Factor (x)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
RoE	16.2%	11.8%	16.3%	17.2%	17.2%
Key Ratios					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
BV/Share (INR)	239.2	268.7	315.2	373.3	442.1
ROIC	22.5%	17.0%	21.2%	22.0%	22.5%
ROE	16.2%	11.8%	16.3%	17.2%	17.2%
Net Debt/Equity (x)	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4
P/E (x)	21.9	35.8	20.7	16.6	14.0
P/B (x)	3.1	4.0	3.1	2.6	2.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.0	18.3	11.2	8.7	7.0
EV/Sales (x)	1.1	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.8
Debtor days	74	72	55	55	55
Inventory days	30	30	28	28	28
Creditor days	74	82	71	69	74

Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

History of Recommendation and Target Price				
Date	Recommendation	Target Price	% Chg.	
20-Jul-23	Hold	745		
17-Aug-23	Hold	790	6.2	
17-Nov-23	Hold	865	9.5	
15-Feb-24	Hold	1,100	27.1	
1-Jun-24	Hold	1,250	13.6	
16-Aug-24	Hold	1,400	12.0	
18-Nov-24	Buy	1,315	-6.1	
12-Feb-25	Buy	1,200	-8.7	
3-Jun-25	Buy	1,210	0.8	
18-Aug-25	Buy	1,175	-2.9	



#### APPENDIX I

### JM Financial Institutional Securities Limited

Corporate Identity Number: U67100MH2017PLC296081

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Investment in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing.

New Rating System: Definition of ratings		
Rating	Meaning	
BUY	Expected return >= 15% over the next twelve months.	
ADD	Expected return >= 5% and < 15% over the next twelve months.	
REDUCE	Expected return >= -10% and < 5% over the next twelve months.	
SELL	Expected return < -10% over the next twelve months.	

Note: For REITs (Real Estate Investment Trust) and InvIT (Infrastructure Investment Trust) total expected returns include dividends or DPU (distribution per unit)

Previous Rating System: Definition of ratings			
Rating	Meaning		
BUY	Total expected returns of more than 10% for stocks with market capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and more than 15% for all other stocks, over the next twelve months. Total expected return includes dividend yields.		
HOLD	Price expected to move in the range of 10% downside to 10% upside from the current market price for stocks with market capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and in the range of 10% downside to 15% upside from the current market price for all other stocks, over the next twelve months.		
SELL	Price expected to move downwards by more than 10% from the current market price over the next twelve months.		

<sup>\*</sup> REITs refers to Real Estate Investment Trusts.

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