

Varun Beverages Limited

Growth momentum to continue

In Q3 CY23, Varun Beverages Limited (VBL) reported a substantial growth in topline of ~22% and volume growth of ~16% on a YoY basis. The Company has improved its Gross and EBITDA margins by 163 bps and 79 bps on a YoY basis, respectively, on the back of the softening of PET chip prices and operational efficiencies. For the next leg of growth, VBL will focus on value-added dairy products, energy drinks and juices. Management has guided to ramp up its capacity in the next two quarters so that the Company can take benefit of the next season. Given the growth outlook and guidance, we maintain our stance on VBL with a BUY rating and a target price of Rs. 1,108, valuing it at 60.5x CY24 earnings.

Stable volume growth with a reducing raw material prices led to margin improvement

In Q3 CY23, VBL achieved a YoY volume growth of ~16%, accompanied by an increase in realization per case by ~5%. The Company's gross margin improved due to a decrease in PET chip prices. Furthermore, VBL's EBITDA per case improved by ~9% from ~37 to ~40 on a YoY basis due to operational efficiencies.

Expansion for next leg of growth

The Company has successfully set up greenfield plants and brownfield manufacturing lines in Bundi, Rajasthan, and Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, while also augmenting the capacity at six existing locations. In addition to this, the Company is actively engaged in establishing greenfield facilities in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha, in addition to one international plant in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). These strategic initiatives align with their previously communicated plans to address the growing demand for juices and dairy products.

Acquisition

On 16th October 2023, the Company acquired a 5.03% stake in Lunarmech Technologies Private Limited for a consideration of Rs. 100 Mn. Postacquisition, the Company will hold 60.07% of the effective equity share capital of Lunarmech Technologies Private Limited.

View & Valuation

Based on the increase in operating capacity and change in product mix, we believe that in CY23 & CY24, VBL would be able to grow in volume by ~13% & ~12% respectively and realization by ~7.5% and ~4.5%, respectively. Based on our revised estimates, we maintain a BUY rating on Varun Beverages with a target of Rs. 1,108 (60.5x CY24 earnings).

7th November 2023

BUY

CMP Rs. 992 TARGET Rs. 1,108 (+11.7%)

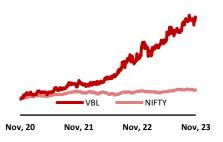
Company Data

| Bloomberg Code | VBL IN |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| MCAP (Rs. Mn) | 12,89,306 |
| O/S Shares (Mn) | 1299 |
| 52w High/Low | 995/538 |
| Face Value (in Rs.) | 5 |
| Liquidity (3M) (Rs. Mn) | 1,704 |

Shareholding Pattern %

| | Sep 23 | Jun 23 | Mar 23 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Promoters | 63.1 | 63.6 | 63.9 |
| FIIs | 27.5 | 26.7 | 26 |
| DIIs | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.7 |
| Non- Institutional | 6.0 | 6.5 | 6.4 |

VBL vs Nifty



Source: Keynote Capitals Ltd.

Key Financial Data

| (Rs Bn) | CY22 | CY23E | CY24E |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Revenue | 131.7 | 160.1 | 187.3 |
| EBITDA | 28 | 34.9 | 41.2 |
| Net Profit | 14.9 | 19.8 | 23.8 |
| Total Assets | 116.1 | 136.6 | 156.5 |
| ROCE (%) | 23% | 24% | 26% |
| ROE (%) | 33% | 33% | 30% |

Source: Company, Keynote Capitals Ltd.

Devin Joshi, Research Analyst Devin@keynoteindia.net





Q3 CY23 Result Update

Result Highlights (Rs. Mn)

| Particulars | Q3 CY23 | Q3 CY22 | Change % (Y-o-Y) | Q2 CY23 | Change % (Q-o-Q) | 9M CY23 | 9M CY22 | Change % (Y-o-Y) | CY22 |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|----------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| Revenue from Operation | 38,705 | 31,766 | 22% | 56,114 | -31% | 1,33,749 | 1,09,589 | 22% | 1,31,731 |
| Gross Profit | 21,408 | 17,053 | 26% | 29,448 | -27% | 71,269 | 56,656 | 26% | 69,120 |
| Gross Profit % | 55.3% | 53.7% | 163 Bps | 52.5% | 283 Bps | 53.3% | 51.7% | 159 Bps | 52.5% |
| Employee Cost | 3,716 | 3,112 | 19% | 3,646 | 2% | 10,753 | 8,967 | 20% | 12,166 |
| Other Expenses | 8,871 | 6,951 | 28% | 10,692 | -17% | 28,604 | 22,883 | 25% | 29,072 |
| EBITDA | 8,821 | 6,990 | 26% | 15,110 | -42% | 31,912 | 24,806 | 29% | 27,881 |
| EBITDA % | 22.8% | 22.0% | 79 Bps | 26.9% | -414 Bps | 23.9% | 22.6% | 122 Bps | 21.2% |
| Depreciation | 1,708 | 1,531 | 12% | 1,719 | -1% | 5,149 | 4,375 | 18% | 6,172 |
| EBIT | 7,113 | 5,458 | 30% | 13,391 | -47% | 26,763 | 20,431 | 31% | 21,709 |
| EBIT % | 18.4% | <i>17.2%</i> | 119 Bps | 23.9% | -549 Bps | 20.0% | 18.6% | 137 Bps | 16.5% |
| Finance Cost | 625 | 453 | 38% | 694 | -10% | 1,944 | 1,386 | 40% | 1,861 |
| Other Income | 185 | 106 | 74% | 416 | -56% | 702 | 296 | 137% | 388 |
| PBT | 6,673 | 5,112 | 31% | 13,113 | -49% | 25,521 | 19,340 | 32% | 20,236 |
| Tax Expenses | 1,529 | 1,157 | 32% | 3,057 | -50% | 5,933 | 4,654 | 27% | 4,735 |
| Profit from Associates | -4 | 0 | | -2 | | -7 | 0 | | 0 |
| Minority Interest | 130 | 144 | -10% | 116 | 12% | 341 | 459 | -26% | 527 |
| PAT attributable to shareholders | 5,011 | 3,810 | 32% | 9,938 | -50% | 19,240 | 14,227 | 35% | 14,974 |
| EPS | 3.86 | 2.93 | | 7.65 | | 14.80 | 10.95 | | 11.53 |

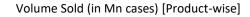
Source: Company, Keynote Capitals Ltd.

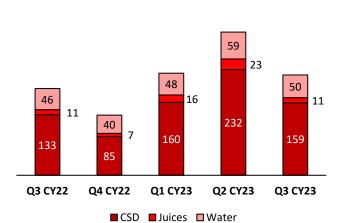
Unit Economics (Rs/Case)

| Particulars | O3 CY23 | Q3 CY22 | Change % | Q2 CY23 | Change % | 9M CY23 | 9M CY22 | Change % | CY22 |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|
| | ζ, σ. Ξ. | ζ, σ | (Y-o-Y) | ~ _ 00 | (Q-o-Q) | J 51.25 | J G | (Y-o-Y) | · · · · · |
| Volume Sold (Mn Cases) | 220 | 190 | 16% | 314 | -30% | 758 | 670 | 13% | 802 |
| Revenue from Operation | 175.9 | 167.2 | 5% | 178.7 | -2% | 176.4 | 163.6 | 8% | 164.3 |
| Gross Profit | 97.3 | 89.8 | 8% | 93.8 | 4% | 94.0 | 84.6 | 11% | 86.2 |
| Employee Cost | 16.9 | 16.4 | 3% | 11.6 | 45% | 14.2 | 13.4 | 6% | 15.2 |
| Other Expenses | 40.3 | 36.6 | 10% | 34.1 | 18% | 37.7 | 34.2 | 10% | 36.2 |
| EBITDA | 40.1 | 36.8 | 9% | 48.1 | -17% | 42.1 | 37.0 | 14% | 34.8 |
| EBIT | 32.3 | 28.7 | 13% | 42.6 | -24% | 35.3 | 30.5 | 16% | 27.1 |
| PBT | 30.3 | 26.9 | 13% | 41.8 | -27% | 33.7 | 28.9 | 17% | 25.2 |
| Tax Expenses | 6.9 | 6.1 | 14% | 9.7 | -29% | 7.8 | 6.9 | 13% | 5.9 |
| PAT attributable to shareholders | 22.8 | 20.1 | 14% | 31.7 | -28% | 25.4 | 21.2 | 20% | 18.7 |

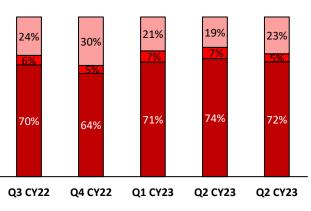
Source: Company, Keynote Capitals Ltd.

Quarterly Business Progression





Volume Mix% [Product-wise]



■ CSD ■ Juices ■ Water





Q2 CY23 Conference Call Highlights

General Highlights

- The Company is diversifying its portfolio by enhancing its capacity in juices and value-added dairy products to align with evolving consumer demands.
- The Company is making investments to increase the usage of green energy and reuse of PET to mitigate environmental impact.
- Volume growth in India bounced back strongly after the unseasonal rains in Q2 CY23.
- The Company did better than other FMCG companies in terms of sales due to increasing penetration in the market and swift expansion of its go-tomarket strategies.
- The Company saw a strong growth of ~75% and ~100% in Gatorade and Nimbooz, respectively.
- The Company is continuously focusing on increasing its Visi-coolers penetration as well as dealers' network.
- Zambia currency devaluation impacted its sales in international market.

Management Guidance

- In the long term, expect EBITDA margins to be ~21%.
- The management has indicated that as sales from South and West India contribute a larger share to the overall sales, the seasonality in sales is expected to diminish.
- PepsiCo's market share remains stable, indicating that industry growth aligns with the Company's volume growth.
- The Company can launch a new product in energy drinks next year.

CAPEX

- The Company is currently undertaking a greenfield capacity expansion initiative in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in Africa. Following the completion of this greenfield capacity project, during the peak month, the capacity will surpass the CY22 capacity by 45%.
- The capacity in DRC (Africa) will be 30-40 Mn cases annually.

Acquisition

 On 16th October 2023, the Company acquired a 5.03% stake in Lunarmech Technologies Private Limited for a purchase consideration of Rs. 100 Mn. Post-acquisition, the Company will hold 60.07% of the effective equity share capital of Lunarmech Technologies Private Limited.



Varun Beverages Limited | Quarterly Update

Financial Statement Analysis

| Income Statement | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Y/E Mar, Rs. Mn | CY21 | CY22 | CY23E | CY24E | CY25E |
| Net Sales | 88,232 | 1,31,731 | 1,60,066 | 1,87,341 | 2,18,635 |
| Growth % | | 49% | 22% | 17% | 17% |
| Raw Material Expenses | 40,347 | 62,612 | 75,551 | 88,050 | 1,02,758 |
| Employee Expenses | 10,077 | 12,166 | 14,406 | 16,861 | 19,677 |
| Other Expenses | 21,040 | 28,893 | 35,214 | 41,215 | 48,100 |
| EBITDA | 16,769 | 28,061 | 34,894 | 41,215 | 48,100 |
| Growth % | | 67% | 24% | 18% | 17% |
| Margin% | 19% | 21% | 22% | 22% | 22% |
| Depreciation | 5,313 | 6,172 | 6,835 | 7,705 | 8,305 |
| EBIT | 11,457 | 21,889 | 28,060 | 33,510 | 39,795 |
| Growth % | | 91% | 28% | 19% | 19% |
| Margin% | 13% | 17% | 18% | 18% | 18% |
| Interest Paid | 2,073 | 2,041 | 1,895 | 1,739 | 1,583 |
| Other Income & exceptional | 683 | 388 | 800 | 600 | 600 |
| PBT | 10,066 | 20,236 | 26,964 | 32,371 | 38,811 |
| Tax | 2,606 | 4,735 | 6,741 | 8,093 | 9,703 |
| PAT | 7,461 | 15,501 | 20,223 | 24,278 | 29,109 |
| Others (Minorities, | | | | | |
| Associates) | -520 | -527 | -458 | -481 | -504 |
| Net Profit | 6,941 | 14,974 | 19,765 | 23,798 | 28,604 |
| Growth % | | 116% | 32% | 20% | 20% |
| Shares (Mn) | 433.0 | 649.6 | 1299.2 | 1299.2 | 1299.2 |
| EPS | 10.69 | 23.05 | 15.21 | 18.32 | 22.02 |

| Cash Flow | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Y/E Mar, Rs. Mn | CY21 | CY22 | CY23E | CY24E | CY25E |
| Pre-tax profit | 10,066 | 20,236 | 26,964 | 32,371 | 38,811 |
| Adjustments | 6,178 | 7,249 | 8,380 | 9,317 | 9,784 |
| Change in Working Capital | -2,687 | -5,852 | -2,606 | -3,430 | -3,455 |
| Total Tax Paid | -1,242 | -3,733 | -6,741 | -8,093 | -9,703 |
| Cash flow from operating Activities | 12,314 | 17,900 | 25,997 | 30,165 | 35,438 |
| Net Capital Expenditure | -8,154 | -17,499 | -19,000 | -10,000 | -10,000 |
| Change in investments | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | (|
| Other investing activities | -1,953 | 449 | 800 | 600 | 600 |
| Cash flow from investing activities | -10,106 | -17,046 | -18,200 | -9,400 | -9,400 |
| Equity raised / (repaid) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Debt raised / (repaid) | 1,286 | 3,396 | -3,000 | -3,000 | -3,000 |
| Dividend (incl. tax) | -1,083 | -1,624 | -2,965 | -3,570 | -4,291 |
| Other financing activities | -1,980 | -1,951 | -1,895 | -1,739 | -1,583 |
| Cash flow from financing activities | -1,777 | -179 | -7,860 | -8,309 | -8,874 |
| Net Change in cash | 431 | 675 | -63 | 12,456 | 17,164 |

| Balance Sheet | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Y/E Mar, Rs. Mn | CY21 | CY22 | CY23E | CY24E | CY25E |
| Cash, Cash equivalents & Bank | 3,366 | 2,853 | 2,319 | 14,775 | 31,939 |
| Current Investments | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Debtors | 2,212 | 2,993 | 4,802 | 5,620 | 6,559 |
| Inventory | 14,481 | 19,939 | 26,443 | 30,818 | 35,965 |
| Other Current Assets | 5,402 | 8,255 | 8,255 | 8,255 | 8,255 |
| Total Current Assets | 25,461 | 34,040 | 41,819 | 59,468 | 82,719 |
| Net Block & CWIP | 68,074 | 75,388 | 88,024 | 90,319 | 92,015 |
| Long Term Investments | 0 | 0 | -8 | -16 | -24 |
| Other Non-current Assets | 2,260 | 6,754 | 6,754 | 6,754 | 6,754 |
| Total Assets | 95,795 | 1,16,182 | 1,36,589 | 1,56,525 | 1,81,463 |
| | | | | | |
| Creditors | 7,118 | 8,243 | 13,949 | 15,712 | 18,344 |
| Provision | 637 | 1,048 | 1,048 | 1,048 | 1,048 |
| Short Term Borrowings | 6,285 | 6,277 | 6,277 | 6,277 | 6,277 |
| Other Current Liabilities | 16,163 | 24,120 | 24,120 | 24,120 | 24,120 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 30,202 | 39,688 | 45,394 | 47,157 | 49,789 |
| Long Term Debt | 18,133 | 17,270 | 14,270 | 11,270 | 8,270 |
| Deferred Tax Liabilities | 3,087 | 3,368 | 3,368 | 3,368 | 3,368 |
| Other Long Term Liabilities | | | | | |
| Other Long Term Liabilities | 2,405 | 3,701 | 3,701 | 3,701 | 3,701 |
| Total Non Current Liabilities | 2,405 23,625 | 3,701 24,340 | 3,701 21,340 | 3,701 18,340 | 3,701 15,340 |
| • | , | , | , | -, | , |

40,799

1,168

51,024

1,131

68,274

1,581

95,795 1,16,182 1,36,589 1,56,525 1,81,462

88,974 1,13,784

2,550

2,054

| | CY21 | CY22 | CY23E | CY24E | CY25E |
|--------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Per Share Data | | | | | |
| EPS | 11 | 23 | 15 | 18 | 22 |
| Growth % | | 116% | -34% | 20% | 20% |
| Book Value Per Share | 94 | 79 | 54 | 70 | 90 |
| Return Ratios | | | | | |
| Return on Assets (%) | 8% | 14% | 16% | 16% | 17% |
| Return on Equity (%) | 18% | 33% | 33% | 30% | 28% |
| Return on Capital Employed (%) | 15% | 23% | 24% | 26% | 25% |
| Turnover Ratios | | | | | |
| Asset Turnover (x) | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Sales / Gross Block (x) | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.6 |
| Working Capital / Sales (%) | -6% | -4% | -3% | 2% | 10% |
| Receivable Days | 10 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 10 |
| Inventory Days | 108 | 100 | 112 | 119 | 119 |
| Payable Days | 49 | 41 | 49 | 59 | 58 |
| Working Capital Days | 68 | 66 | 72 | 70 | 71 |
| Liquidity Ratios | | | | | |
| Current Ratio (x) | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.7 |
| Interest Coverage Ratio (x) | 5.9 | 10.9 | 15.2 | 19.6 | 25.5 |
| Total Debt to Equity | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Net Debt to Equity | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Valuation | | | | | |
| PE (x) | 58.7 | 27.2 | 91.2 | 75.7 | 63.0 |
| Earnings Yield (%) | 2% | 4% | 1% | 1% | 2% |
| Price to Sales (x) | 4.6 | 3.1 | 5.6 | 4.8 | 4.1 |
| Price to Book (x) | 10.0 | 17.7 | 13.2 | 10.1 | 7.9 |
| EV/EBITDA (x) | 26.1 | 33.3 | 26.8 | 22.7 | 19.4 |
| EV/Sales (x) | 5.0 | 7.1 | 5.8 | 5.0 | 4.3 |

Source: Company, Keynote Capitals Ltd.

Shareholders' Equity

Non Controlling Interest

Total Equity & Liabilities

KFYNOTE Rating History

| REYNOTE Rating History | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Date | Rating | Market Price at Recommendation | Upside/Downside | |
| 4 th December 2022 | BUY | 659 | +16.8% | |
| 7 th February 2022 | BUY | 653 | +11.8% | |
| 2 nd May 2023 | BUY | 708 | +14.7% | |
| 3 rd August 2023 | BUY | 824 | +17% | |
| 7 th November 2023 | BUY | 992 | +11.7% | |





Rating Methodology

| Rating | Criteria | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| BUY | Expected positive return of > 10% over 1-year horizon | | | | |
| NEUTRAL | Expected positive return of > 0% to < 10% over 1-year horizon | | | | |
| REDUCE | Expected return of < 0% to -10% over 1-year horizon | | | | |
| SELL | Expected to fall by >10% over 1-year horizon | | | | |
| NOT RATED (NR)/UNDER REVIEW (UR)/COVERAGE SUSPENDED (CS) | Not covered by Keynote Capitals Ltd/Rating & Fair value under Review/Keynote Capitals Ltd has suspended coverage | | | | |

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