

# India

# **HOLD** (no change)

Consensus ratings\*: Buy 15 Hold 7 Sell 6 Current price: Rs3.365 Rs3.500 Target price: Previous target: Rs3.324 Up/downside: 4.0% InCred Research / Consensus: 3.1% JKCE.BO Reuters: JKCE IN Bloombera: US\$3,581m Market cap: Rs260,004m US\$5.3m Average daily turnover: Rs384.9m Current shares o/s: 77.3m 38.3% Free float: \*Source: Bloomberg

### Key changes in this note

- > Raise EBITDA by 3-4% for FY24F-26F.
- Raise target price to Rs3,500 from Rs3,324 earlier.



		Source: B	loomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	6.5	3.8	20.1
Relative (%)	8.2	5.4	13.1

Major shareholders	% held
Promoter & Promoter Group	45.8
Kotak Small Cap Fund	5.2
Mirae Asset Emerging Fund	4.9

#### Analyst(s)



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# J K Cement Ltd

# Strong 2Q performance; stock fairly priced

- 2QFY24 consolidated EBITDA stood at ~Rs4.67bn, up 53% yoy & 15% qoq, 16% above our estimate, driven by strong volume and lower freight costs.
- The grey cement expansion plan remains on track. Positive surprise on the realization front in 3Q led by cement price hikes (average 3-4% qoq till date).
- We raise our FY24F-26F EBITDA by 3-4% on strong 1H. Retain HOLD rating on the stock, post recent stock run-up, with a higher target price of Rs3,500.

## Steady volume in 2QFY24; new expansion provides growth visibility

JK Cement or JKCE's 2QFY24 grey cement volume (consol.) rose by ~22% yoy to 4.54mt, driven by its new Central India capacity, which operated at ~75%, and similar qoq. Grey cement realization remained flat qoq while it improved by 3% yoy mainly due to the better pricing in North India market offset by lower prices in other markets. Further, JKCE witnessed an improvement (by ~Rs20/bag or ~4% vs 2Q average) in pricing in 3Q till date, particularly in South and North India. JKCE is on track for 1.5mtpa grinding unit or GU in Ujjain (by Nov-Dec 2023F) and a 2mpta GU in Prayagraj (received environmental clearance, placed an order for main plant & equipment, to be commissioned by 2QFY25F). JKCE strengthened its network in the paint business where it targets a revenue of Rs1.5-2bn in FY24F (~Rs3bn in FY25F) and EBITDA loss to be lower than Rs200m (maintained), while JKCE has already garnered Rs70m topline with EBITDA loss of Rs70m in 1HFY24.

## Blended EBITDA/t up at ~Rs1,029, better than peers

Blended costs/t fell by ~1% qoq to Rs5,039 in 2Q. Blended fuel consumption costs fell to Rs1.9/Kcal vs. Rs2.2/Kcal qoq and Rs2.4Kcal yoy, and JKCE expects a marginal fall in 3QFY24F to Rs1.8-1.85Kcal or Rs50/t qoq reduction. Freight costs declined 6% qoq due to no busy-season surcharge by Indian Railways owing to the monsoon season and lead-distance reduction (418km in 2Q vs. 426km qoq).

Leverage position at peak level; deleveraging to kick in post FY24F

Capex guidance maintained at Rs14bn for FY24F (Rs5bn incurred in 1H) and at Rs7bn for FY25F for the aforesaid expansions. Consol. net debt remained broadly flat at Rs30bn as of Sep 2023-end. We believe net debt seems to have peaked out. On Toshali acquisition, JKCE is awaiting the approval for the mines and has not spent money on M&A till now.

### Retain HOLD rating with a target price of Rs3,500 on rich valuation

JKCE trades at FY24F/25F EV/EBITDA of 15.5x/13.6x, respectively. We like JKCE's presence and new expansion in the regions having favourable demand and pricing, but we feel the current EV/t limits (due to a recent rally in the stock) any further upside in the stock. We retain HOLD rating on it with a Sep 2024F target price of Rs3,500, set at one-year forward EV/EBITDA of 13.5x (unchanged). **Downside risks**: Weak demand, pricing pressure, and delay in commissioning of capacity. **Upside risks**: Strong demand & pricing, sharp deleveraging, and cost control.

Financial Summary	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Revenue (Rsm)	79,908	97,202	113,017	123,205	135,210
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	14,824	13,143	19,289	21,567	23,810
Net Profit (Rsm)	6,871	4,263	7,232	8,733	10,177
Core EPS (Rs)	88.9	55.2	93.6	113.0	131.7
Core EPS Growth	(3.2%)	(38.0%)	69.6%	20.8%	16.5%
FD Core P/E (x)	37.84	60.99	35.95	29.77	25.55
DPS (Rs)	15.0	15.0	15.9	19.2	22.4
Dividend Yield	0.45%	0.45%	0.57%	0.69%	0.81%
EV/EBITDA (x)	19.76	22.86	15.60	13.64	12.14
P/FCFE (x)	570.87	58.80	17.54	9.48	7.13
Net Gearing	77.5%	88.1%	79.3%	58.4%	43.8%
P/BV (x)	6.01	5.55	4.94	4.37	3.84
ROE	17.0%	9.5%	14.5%	15.6%	16.0%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			(0.43%)	(0.40%)	(0.39%)
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



# Strong 2Q performance; stock fairly priced

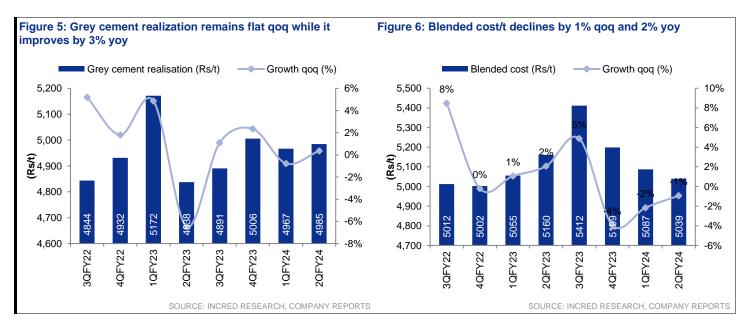
Particulars (Rs m)	2QFY24	2QFY24F	1QFY24	2QFY23	20EV23 % Change			
			·		2QFY24F	1QFY24	2QFY23	
Net Sales	27,528	25,721	27,626	22,280	7%	0%	24%	
Raw Materials Consumed	4,584	4,391	4,644	3,678	4%	-1%	25%	
Freight and Forwarding Expenses	5,362	5,435	5,842	4,627	-1%	-8%	16%	
Power and Fuel Costs	6,332	6,175	6,910	5,762	3%	-8%	10%	
Employee Costs	1,829	1,616	1,839	1,528	13%	-1%	20%	
Other Expenses	4,752	4,078	4,312	3,633	17%	10%	31%	
Total Expenditure	22,858	21,695	23,548	19,228	5%	-3%	19%	
EBITDA	4,670	4,026	4,078	3,052	16%	15%	53%	
Depreciation	1,371	1,355	1,348	1,061	1%	2%	29%	
EBIT	3,299	2,670	2,730	1,991	24%	21%	66%	
Interest	1,150	1,051	1,090	670	9%	5%	72%	
Other Income	293	323	316	217	-9%	-7%	35%	
PBT	2,442	1,942	1,806	1,538	26%	35%	59%	
Tax	657	563	671	425	17%	-2%	55%	
PAT before MI & Associates	1,785	1,379	1,135	1,113	29%	57%	60%	
Minority Interest	-4	18	12	13	-121%	-131%	-128%	
Profit from Assoc.	0	0	0	-2				
Recurring PAT	1,781	1,397	1,147	1,124	27%	55%	58%	
Extraordinary Items	0	0	-150	0				
Reported PAT	1,781	1,397	1,147	1,124	27%	55%	58%	
EPS (Rs)	23.1	17.8	14.7	14.4	29%	57%	60%	
Gross Margin	41%	38%	37%	37%	308 bp	384 bp	401 bp	
EBITDA Margin	17.0%	15.7%	14.8%	13.7%	131 bp	220 bp	327 bp	
EBIT Margin	12%	10%	10%	9%	160 bp	210 bp	305 bp	
PBT Margin	9%	8%	7%	7%	132 bp	233 bp	197 bp	
PAT Margin	6%	5%	4%	5%	104 bp	232 bp	142 bp	
Tax Rate	27%	29%	37%	28%	-208 bp	-1,025 bp	-72 bp	
Cost Items as a % of Sales								
Raw Material Costs	17%	17%	17%	17%	-42 bp	-16 bp	14 bp	
Freight Costs	19%	21%	21%	21%	-165 bp	-167 bp	-129 bp	
Power & Fuel Costs	23%	24%	25%	26%	-101 bp	-201 bp	-286 br	

Day tanna analysis	2QFY24	2QFY24F	40EV24	205722	•	% Change	
Per tonne analysis	2QF124	2QF124F	1QFY24	2QFY23 —	2QFY24F	1QFY24	2QFY23
Sales Volume (Grey+White)	4.54	4.30	4.63	3.73	6%	-2.0%	21.7%
Blended Realization/t	6,068	5,986	5,968	5,979	1.4%	1.7%	1.5%
EBITDA/t	1,029	937	881	819	10%	17%	26%
Raw Material Costs/t	1,010	1,022	1,003	987	-1%	1%	2%
P&F Costs/t	1,396	1,437	1,493	1,546	-3%	-6%	-10%
Freight Costs/t	1,182	1,265	1,262	1,242	-7%	-6%	-5%
Employee Costs/t	403	376	397	410	7%	1%	-2%
Other Expenses/t	1,048	949	932	975	10%	12%	7%
Total Cost/t	5,039	5,049	5,087	5,160	0%	-1%	-2%



## Key charts ➤

Figure 3: Consol. grey cement sales volume rises by ~22% yoy on Figure 4: White cement (including putty) volume rises by 19% yoy expanded capacity Grey cement volume (MT) Growth yoy (%) White+Putty volume (MT) Growth yoy (%) 4.5 35% 0.7 40% 4.0 35% 30% 0.6 3.5 30% 25% 0.5 3.0 25% 20% **E**2.5 **€**0.4 20% 2.0 15% €0.3 15% 1.5 10% 0.2 10% 1.0 5% 0.1 0.5 5% 0.0 0.0 0% 1QFY23 3QFY23 2QFY23 4QFY23 2QFY24 3QFY22 4QFY22 QFY24 1QFY23 2QFY24 72 4QFY22 2QFY23 3QFY23 IQFY24 SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



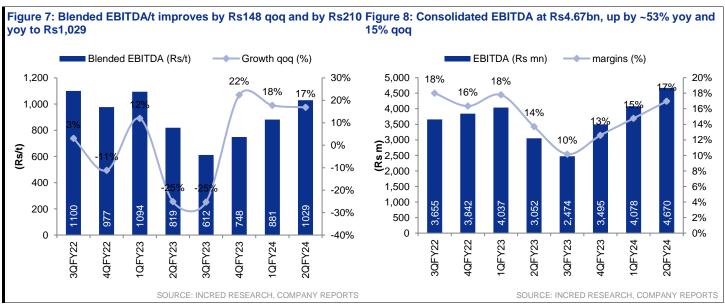


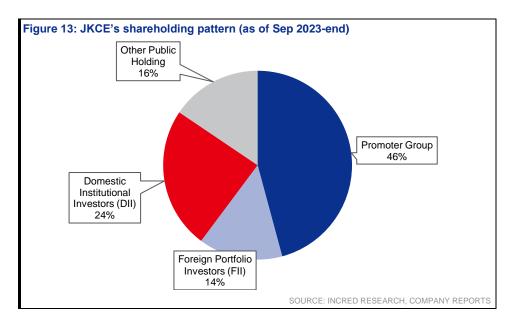


Figure 9: Our	Figure 9: Our revised earnings estimates											
Rs. Mn		New			Old		Cł	nange (%)				
	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F			
Sales	1,13,017	1,23,205	1,35,210	1,11,554	1,20,851	1,30,581	1%	2%	3%			
EBITDA	19,289	21,567	23,810	18,744	20,982	22,744	3%	3%	4%			
PAT	7,232	8,733	10,177	7,351	9,137	10,487	-2%	-5%	-3%			
EPS (Rs.)	93.6	113.0	131.7	95	118	136	-2%	-5%	-3%			
				SOURCE:	INCRED RE	SEARCH ES	TIMATES, C	OMPANY R	EPORTS			

Figure 10: Ch	Figure 10: Changes in our earnings estimates vs. Bloomberg consensus estimates											
Rs. Mn		Incred		C	Consensus			Change (%)				
	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F			
Sales	1,13,017	1,23,205	1,35,210	1,11,826	1,23,323	1,34,727	1%	0%	0%			
EBITDA	19,289	21,567	23,810	18,725	22,141	24,663	3%	-3%	-3%			
PAT	7,232	8,733	10,177	7,102	9,593	11,643	2%	-9%	-13%			
	SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS, BLOOMBERG											

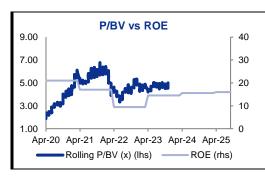
FY22A	FY23A	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F
14	16	19	20	22
17%	15%	16%	9%	9%
5,590	5,871	5,903	5,903	5,928
3%	5%	1%	0%	0%
4,641	5,194	4,993	4,972	4,980
10%	12%	-4%	0%	0%
1,057	812	1,028	1,055	1,064
-18%	-23%	27%	3%	1%
14,824	13,143	19,289	21,567	23,810
-4%	-11%	47%	12%	10%
	14 17% 5,590 3% 4,641 10% 1,057 -18% 14,824	14 16 17% 15% 5,590 5,871 3% 5% 4,641 5,194 10% 12% 1,057 812 -18% -23% 14,824 13,143	14         16         19           17%         15%         16%           5,590         5,871         5,903           3%         5%         1%           4,641         5,194         4,993           10%         12%         -4%           1,057         812         1,028           -18%         -23%         27%           14,824         13,143         19,289	14         16         19         20           17%         15%         16%         9%           5,590         5,871         5,903         5,903           3%         5%         1%         0%           4,641         5,194         4,993         4,972           10%         12%         -4%         0%           1,057         812         1,028         1,055           -18%         -23%         27%         3%           14,824         13,143         19,289         21,567

Figure 12: Maintain HOLD rating year forward EV/EBITDA of 13.5	g with a Sep 2024F target price of Rs3,500, set at one- x (unchanged)
Valuation	TP
Target EV/EBITDA (x)	13.5
Target EV (Rs m)	3,21,438
Net debt / (cash) (Rs m)	33,770
No. of shares (m)	77
Fair value per share (Rs)	3,500
	SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS





# **BY THE NUMBERS**





Profit & Loss					
(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Total Net Revenues	79,908	97,202	113,017	123,205	135,210
Gross Profit	79,908	97,202	113,017	123,205	135,210
Operating EBITDA	14,824	13,143	19,289	21,567	23,810
Depreciation And Amortisation	(3,425)	(4,582)	(5,499)	(5,939)	(6,414)
Operating EBIT	11,399	8,561	13,790	15,628	17,396
Financial Income/(Expense)	(2,697)	(3,122)	(4,620)	(4,343)	(4,082)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	(2)				
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	1,429	874	1,206	1,267	1,330
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	10,129	6,313	10,376	12,552	14,644
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	10,129	6,313	10,376	12,552	14,644
Taxation	(3,337)	(2,122)	(3,217)	(3,891)	(4,540)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	6,792	4,191	7,160	8,661	10,104
Minority Interests	79	72	72	72	72
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	6,871	4,263	7,232	8,733	10,177
Recurring Net Profit	6,871	4,263	7,232	8,733	10,177
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	6,871	4,263	7,232	8,733	10,177

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
EBITDA	14,824	13,143	19,289	21,567	23,810
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	8,813	(4,112)	(1,496)	303	(922)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	1,429	874	1,206	1,267	1,330
Other Operating Cashflow	(15,720)	5,366	14,366	23,366	32,366
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(2,697)	(3,122)	(4,620)	(4,343)	(4,082)
Tax Paid	2,137	1,622	(3,217)	(3,891)	(4,540)
Cashflow From Operations	8,787	13,771	25,528	38,268	47,962
Capex	(15,275)	(18,697)	(14,000)	(7,000)	(7,000)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	5,312	(1,451)	1,800	(1,850)	(1,500)
Cash Flow From Investing	(9,964)	(20,148)	(12,200)	(8,850)	(8,500)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	1,632	10,799	1,500	(2,000)	(3,000)
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares					
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(1,159)	(1,159)	(1,488)	(1,796)	(2,093)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	144	(2,226)	(12,293)	(20,793)	(32,293)
Cash Flow From Financing	617	7,413	(12,281)	(24,589)	(37,386)
Total Cash Generated	(560)	1,036	1,047	4,829	2,075
Free Cashflow To Equity	455	4,422	14,828	27,418	36,462
Free Cashflow To Firm	1,520	(3,255)	17,948	33,761	43,544

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



# BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Total Cash And Equivalents	5,299	9,041	10,088	14,917	16,992
Total Debtors	4,268	4,801	5,264	5,738	6,297
Inventories	12,087	9,821	11,766	13,164	14,447
Total Other Current Assets	13,593	13,720	15,596	16,386	17,983
Total Current Assets	35,247	37,383	42,714	50,206	55,720
Fixed Assets	65,437	84,456	92,957	94,018	94,604
Total Investments	110	215	415	765	765
Intangible Assets	10,321	5,920	3,920	5,420	6,920
Total Other Non-Current Assets	2,916	4,877	4,877	4,877	4,877
Total Non-current Assets	78,783	95,468	102,169	105,080	107,167
Short-term Debt	8,683	8,941	8,941	8,941	8,941
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	7,151	8,221	8,962	10,265	11,220
Other Current Liabilities	10,870	12,305	14,353	16,017	17,577
Total Current Liabilities	26,704	29,468	32,257	35,223	37,739
Total Long-term Debt	29,866	41,010	42,510	40,510	37,510
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	14,553	15,949	17,949	20,449	20,449
Total Non-current Liabilities	44,419	56,959	60,459	60,959	57,959
Total Provisions					
Total Liabilities	71,123	86,427	92,715	96,181	95,698
Shareholders Equity	43,249	46,868	52,612	59,549	67,632
Minority Interests	(343)	(444)	(444)	(444)	(444)
Total Equity	42,906	46,424	52,168	59,105	67,188

Key Ratios					
	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Revenue Growth	21.0%	21.6%	16.3%	9.0%	9.7%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(3.7%)	(11.3%)	46.8%	11.8%	10.4%
Operating EBITDA Margin	18.6%	13.5%	17.1%	17.5%	17.6%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	(430.32)	(529.46)	(535.32)	(446.94)	(381.26)
BVPS (Rs)	559.72	606.56	680.90	770.68	875.29
Gross Interest Cover	4.23	2.74	2.98	3.60	4.26
Effective Tax Rate	32.9%	33.6%	31.0%	31.0%	31.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	16.9%	27.2%	20.6%	20.6%	20.6%
Accounts Receivables Days	18.00	17.03	16.25	16.30	16.25
Inventory Days	44.88	41.13	34.86	36.93	37.27
Accounts Payables Days	36.87	33.38	33.46	34.52	35.20
ROIC (%)	12.6%	8.3%	12.4%	13.8%	15.0%
ROCE (%)	14.9%	9.6%	13.8%	14.7%	15.7%
Return On Average Assets	8.9%	5.9%	8.5%	8.7%	8.9%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS





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