



India

ADD (Initiating coverage)

Sell 0 Buy 3 Hold 0 Consensus ratings*: Current price: Rs1.188 Rs2.051 Target price: Previous target: NA 72.6% Up/downside: EIP Research / Consensus: 72.6% Reuters: Bloombera: DFPC IN US\$1,763m Market cap: Rs149,983m US\$18.5m Average daily turnover: Rs1570.4m Current shares o/s: 126.2m Free float: 54.4% *Source: Bloomberg

		Price Close	
	178		188.0
	132		142.0
	86		96.0
Molm	154		
	De	D-24	

		Source:	Bloomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	(6.6)	22.3	81.1
Relative (%)	(8.6)	30.5	61.2
Major shareholders			% held
Promoters			45.6
FII			9.7
Motilal Oswal Busines	s Cycle F	und	3.6

Deepak Fertilisers & Petrochemicals Corp. Ltd.

DFPCL locks TAN upcycle with expansion

- ~6% CAGR is expected in TAN production over FY24-30F on the back of 1.5bnt (bn tonne) coal production target of the govt.; CIL targets 1bntpa prod.
- DFPCL leverages US\$8/mmBtu gas cost from the Equinor deal, starting from FY27, saving ~Rs14/kg with backward integrated ammonia production.
- We value the stock at 14.8x FY27F EPS to arrive at our TP of Rs2,051 backed by strong EPS growth and sectoral upcycle. Initiate coverage with ADD rating.

Targets 1mtpa TAN & ~1.5mtpa nitric acid capacity by FY26F

Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Corporation (DFPCL) stands tall as a diversified leader in technical ammonium nitrate (TAN), nitric acid, isopropyl alcohol (IPA), and crop nutrition. With its current capacity of 586ktpa, the company commands a 44% market share in TAN, supplying to critical sectors like mining and infrastructure. The company is also India's largest producer of nitric acid (1,116ktpa) and sole manufacturer of LDAN. DFPCL dominates the IPA market with a 38% share, backed by a robust 70ktpa capacity, and leads the crop nutrition business with 1,157ktpa fertilizer capacity and innovative products like Smartek and Croptek. The company's ambitious expansion plans include a 376ktpa TAN greenfield project at Gopalpur, and 450ktpa nitric acid addition, propelling its TAN capacity to 1mtpa and strengthening its chemicals business leadership by FY26F.

Gains via sectoral upcycle, low gas cost for 510ktpa ammonia plant

The ammonium nitrate market is roaring back to life after a 2023-24 slump, where Russian dumping wreaked havoc. Now, imports have stabilized, and prices are surging to their highest levels in nine months, powered by India's booming coal production & robust infrastructure growth. DFPCL's backward integration plan ensures in-house ammonia production, insulating it from rising global prices and import volatility. With the Equinor LNG contract slashing gas costs from US\$13.5 to US\$8/mmBtu, DFPCL's TAN business gains a distinct cost advantage of ~39%. While peers scramble amid spiking ammonia imports from the Middle East, DFPCL's new 510ktpa ammonia plant will provide uninterrupted feedstock for ammonium nitrate, maximizing margins and securing supply stability.

EPS to post ~68% CAGR over FY24-28F; initiate coverage with ADD

We expect DFPCL's earnings to grow at a robust CAGR of 68% over FY24-28F, driven by capacity expansion in TAN (to 1mtpa) and nitric acid (450ktpa), alongside favourable demand outlook in mining, specialty chemicals, and crop nutrition. Valuing the stock at a 10-year historical forward P/E of 14.8x FY27F EPS, we arrive at a target price of Rs2,051, reflecting significant upside potential. Key downside risks to our thesis include environmental regulatory concerns impacting the crop nutrition business and potential resumption of ammonium nitrate dumping from Russia, which could weigh on margins.

Financial Summary	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue (Rsm)	113,007	86,761	94,323	98,510	124,566
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	21,654	12,867	19,437	22,719	31,900
Net Profit (Rsm)	12,209	4,572	10,122	11,694	17,499
Core EPS (Rs)	96.7	36.2	80.2	92.6	138.6
Core EPS Growth	69.6%	(62.5%)	121.4%	15.5%	49.6%
FD Core P/E (x)	12.29	32.80	14.82	12.83	8.57
DPS (Rs)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EV/EBITDA (x)	8.42	14.55	9.73	8.57	6.29
P/FCFE (x)	(30.19)	42.06	40.31	141.05	49.42
Net Gearing	60.0%	67.7%	62.2%	62.3%	59.6%
P/BV (x)	2.96	2.77	2.43	2.12	1.79
ROE	27.3%	8.7%	17.5%	17.7%	22.6%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates					

% Change In Core EPS Estimates

% Change in Core EPS Estimates InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)

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SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



DFPCL locks TAN upcycle with expansion

Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corporation (DFPCL) is a diversified Indian conglomerate with a robust presence across multiple industries. In the industrial chemicals segment, DFPCL is the largest producer of nitric acid in India, with an impressive 1,116ktpa capacity. The company commands ~60% market share in concentrated nitric acid (CNA) and ~30% in diluted nitric acid (DNA). DFPCL also produces isopropyl alcohol (IPA) with a 70ktpa capacity, securing a dominant 38% market share. In fertilizers, DFPCL manufactures high-efficiency products, including NPK complex and bentonite sulphur, with a combined capacity of 1,157ktpa, reinforcing its leadership in the market. The company is also a frontrunner in mining chemicals, holding a 44% market share in technical ammonium nitrate (TAN) and offering comprehensive mining solutions with a capacity of 587ktpa. The company is also the only manufacturer of LDAN in India and ranks among the top five global producers of TAN. Beyond these core sectors, DFPCL has a presence in the realty market under its brand, Creativity, a lifestyle centre that specializes in home interiors and design.

Business Overview

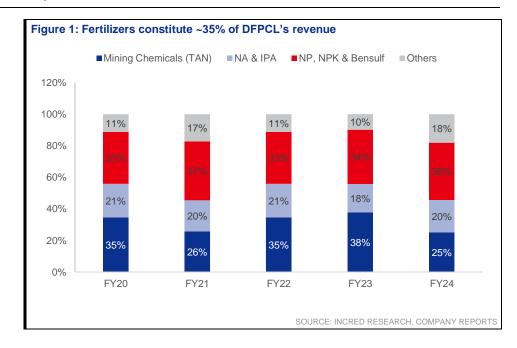
Company's journey ➤

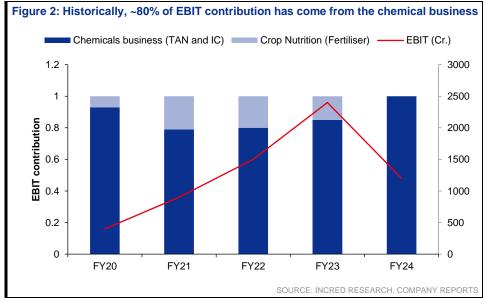
Established in 1979, DFPCL started its commercial journey with ammonia production in 1983 at its Taloja unit in Maharashtra. Over the years, the company has significantly diversified its product portfolio, adding a wide range of chemicals and fertilizers, including dilute and concentrated nitric acid, ammonium nitrate, and ammonium nitro phosphate (ANP) fertilizer, with production beginning in 1992. DFPCL has further expanded into methanol, liquid carbon dioxide, isopropyl alcohol (IPA), and sulphur bentonite fertilizer. The company is recognized as a leading manufacturer in India, producing top-quality chemicals that adhere to both domestic and international standards, serving industries such as pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, precious metals refining, defence, and textiles. Notably, DFPCL is the largest producer of nitric acid in Southeast Asia and holds a dominant position in the IPA market in India. In FY24, the company commissioned a 500ktpa ammonia plant and has ambitious plans to launch an additional 376ktpa of technical ammonium nitrate (TAN) and 450ktpa of nitric acid by FY26F, continuing its legacy of innovation and growth.

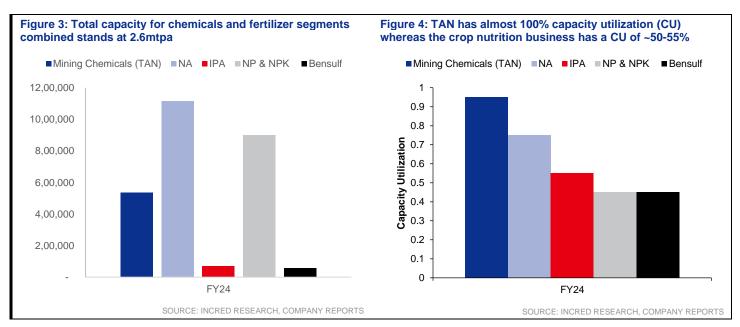
Business segments >

- Mining chemicals (TAN, ANFO, etc.): DFPCL produces a range of ammonium nitrate grades, including low-density ammonium nitrate (LDAN), the sole manufacturer of this product in India. LDAN is crucial in the production of ANFO (ammonium nitrate fuel oil), a key blasting agent used in mining operations.
- Industrial chemicals (nitric acid, IPA, ammonia): In addition to isopropyl alcohol (IPA), DFPCL consumes approximately 75-80% of its nitric acid and 100% of its ammonia for use in the production of technical ammonium nitrate (TAN) and fertilizers.
- Crop nutrition and fertilizers (NP, NPK, Bensulf): Beyond bulk fertilizers, DFPCL manufactures specialized products like Croptek (crop-specific fertilizers) and Smartek (fertilizers that release nutrients as per the plant's requirements), providing tailored solutions for crop nutrition.











DFPCL expands ammonia capacity to ~630ktpa with Rs43.5bn investment ➤

Over the years, DFPCL has significantly diversified its product portfolio. Ammonia is a key raw material for DFPCL, currently accounting for 85% of its needs, with the annual consumption at 400ktpa. This demand is expected to increase significantly following the completion of debottlenecking at its Taloja plant and the greenfield TAN project at Gopalpur, potentially raising ammonia consumption to around 750ktpa. The company operates a 40-year-old ammonia plant at Taloja in Maharashtra, with a capacity of 129ktpa, running at 90% utilization. DFPCL has completed its 510ktpa brownfield ammonia expansion, with a capex of Rs43.5bn. This backward integration strategy will significantly reduce the reliance on third-party suppliers and imports, ensuring a stable supply of raw materials for its operations.

Figure 5: Total ammonia requirement is going to be ~750ktpa by FY26F								
Ammonia requirement in FY26F								
Product	Capacity (ktpa)	Utilization	Input/Output	Ammonia requirement (ktpa)				
DNA	1,185	90%	0.27	287.97				
TAN	963	98%	0.33	311.40				
Fertilizers	1100	90%	0.15	148.50				
Total				747.87				
			SOURCE: INCR	ED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS				

Figure 6: ~100% of in-house ammonia capacity can be utilized internally						
Ammonia produ	uction capability					
	Capacity (ktpa)	Utilisation potential	Max ammonia production (ktpa)			
Old plant	129	90%	116.1			
New plant	500	100%	500			
Total ammonia p	roduction		616.1			
Total demand			747.87			
		SOURCE: I	NCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS			

DFPCL mitigates ammonia import risks with its new plant and long-term growth strategy

Ammonia, being a hazardous gas, presents inherent risks when imported. Currently, logistics costs for ammonia imports are high, ranging between US\$ 90-100/mt. However, DFPCL's new ammonia plant is expected to mitigate these challenges. The project will provide additional rebate on Goods and Services Tax or GST (9%) from the Maharashtra government and generate captive steam worth US\$15/mt. Despite a recent correction in ammonia prices, management remains confident in its long-term strategy, viewing the asset as a 20–25-year investment. Furthermore, the global demand for ammonia is poised to rise due to its diverse applications, supporting a stable outlook for the commodity.

DFPCL's current gas cost stands at US\$13.5-14.5/mmBtu for its new ammonia plant with 68% supply coverage

DFPCL has successfully secured a favourable gas price range of US\$13.5-14.5/mmBtu for its current operations. The new ammonia plant requires a daily supply of 1.3bcm of gas, with 68% of its needs already covered through tie-ups. The 68% of secured gas contracts are primarily linked to Brent crude oil prices, ensuring a stable supply at competitive rates for the company.

Figure 7: The current spread for an am	monia plant is Rs.12.5/kg ex	cluding GST benefits
Gas cost	13.5	US\$/mmBtu
Exchange	83	
Gas consumption per tonne NH3	30	mmBtu/t
Other costs	25	US\$/t
Steam credit	15	US\$/t
Overall costs	415	US\$/
Costs (in INR)	34	Rs/kg
Selling price	47	Rs/kg
Spread	12.5	Rs/kg
	SOURCE: INCRED RES	SEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



DFPCL signs 15-year gas supply agreement with Equinor, slashing the cost to US\$8/mmBtu

Starting FY27, DFPCL has secured a 15-year long-term gas supply agreement with Equinor from Norway, guaranteeing a continuous and reliable supply of natural gas. This agreement is expected to enhance margins through effective natural gas and LNG hedging, alongside in-house ammonia production, ensuring greater operational stability. The pricing formula in the deal is linked to Henry Hub, set at US\$5 + 115%*HH, which is anticipated to reduce gas costs significantly from the current US\$13.5/mmBtu to approximately US\$8/mmBtu, providing a substantial cost advantage for the company.

	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	FY28F	FY29F	FY30F
Gas cost (US\$/mmBtu)	13.5	11	8	8	8	8
Exchange (US\$/INR)	85	87	88	90	92	94
Gas consumption per tonne NH3	30	30	30	30	30	30
Other costs (US\$/t)	25	25	25	25	25	25
Steam credit (US\$/t)	15	15	15	15	15	15
Overall costs (US\$/t	415	340	250	250	250	250
Ammonia price (US\$/t landed cost in India)	420	387	294	294	294	294
Freight cost savings (US\$/t)	100	100	100	100	100	100
Overall savings (US\$/t)	105	147	144	144	144	144
Overall savings (Rs/kg)	8.93	12.74	12.73	12.99	13.25	13.51
Savings because of GST	3.21	3.02	2.34	2.39	2.43	2.48
Overall savings (Rs/kg)	12.14	15.76	15.07	15.38	15.68	16.00
Ammonia production (t)	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000
Overall savings from ammonia (Rs m)	6,069.00	7,882.33	7,537.23	7,687.97	7,841.73	7,998.57
				SOURCE: INCR	ED RESEARCH, COM	IPANY REPORTS

DFPCL aims at global leadership, expanding TAN capacity to 1 mtpa to meet growing demand ➤

The demand for technical ammonium nitrate (TAN) remains robust, with the annual demand currently around 1.5mt, driven by growth in infrastructure and mining sectors. DFPCL's strategic plan to expand its TAN capacity will support India's journey towards self-reliance in TAN production, aligning with the government's Atma Nirbhar Bharat vision. The company currently holds a dominant ~44% share of the domestic TAN market and aims to become the third-largest global TAN manufacturer within the next five years. This ambition is supported by a planned increase in its TAN capacity from 586ktpa to nearly 1 mtpa.

DFPCL expands TAN capacity by 376ktpa with Rs22bn Gopalpur project, targeting 60% of India's demand

DFPCL is advancing a major greenfield project at Gopalpur in Odisha, which will boost its TAN production capacity by 376ktpa, with an estimated project cost of Rs22bn. This expansion will increase the company's total installed capacity to approximately 1,000ktpa, enabling it to meet around 60% of India's ammonium nitrate demand, up from 44% currently. Scheduled for commissioning by the end of FY26F, the project's strategic location near key mining hubs and proximity to Gopalpur port in Odisha will enhance both domestic distribution and export capabilities, positioning DFPCL for greater market penetration.

India's coal sector growth to boost TAN demand with 6% CAGR in mining production

The Ministry of Coal is advancing major infrastructure projects to achieve India's ambitious coal production target of 1.5bnt (billion tonne) by FY30F, in line with the Vision 2047 for a developed nation. Coal India or CIL accounts for ~75% of domestic coal production, with coal mining representing ~63% of the mining sector. Notably, ~65% of the technical ammonium nitrate (TAN) produced in India is used in coal mining, followed by ~25% in the infrastructure sector and ~10% in non-coal mining. The 'Mission Coking Coal' initiative aims to boost domestic coking coal production to 140mt by 2030F to meet rising steel sector demand. With coordinated efforts under the PM Gati Shakti scheme, India is set to modernize its coal sector, driving both economic growth and sustainability. Mining

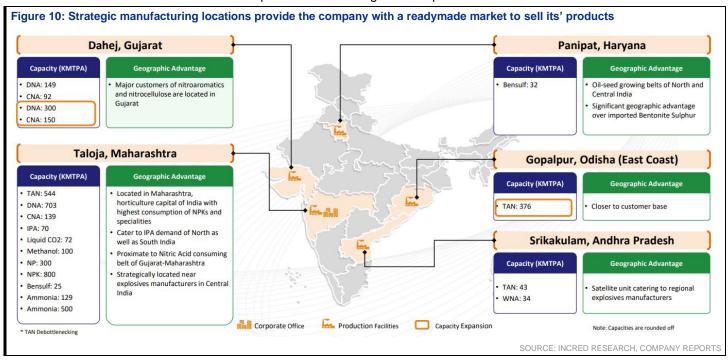


production is projected to post a CAGR of ~6% over the next five years, further stimulating TAN demand and creating market opportunities.

Figure 9: Demand for technical ammonium nitrate is directly linked with the production growth of Coal India Coal mining in India Opencast Underground All India TAN consumption (ktpa) Production Production Production Growth % Growth % Growth % FY15 560.7 9% 48 5 -2% 609.2 8% FY16 592.8 6% 46.4 -4% 639.2 5% 479 FY17 613.5 3% 44 4 -4% 657.9 3% 493 FY18 633.6 3% 41.8 -6% 675.4 3% 507 42.5 FY19 686.2 8% 2% 728.7 8% 547 FY20 690.4 1% 40.5 -5% 730.9 0% 548 FY21 683.9 -1% 32.2 -20% 716.1 -2% 537 FY22 745.0 9% 33.2 3% 778.2 9% 584 FY23 15% 670 858.3 15% 34.8 5% 893.2 FY24 962.5 12% 34.7 0% 997.2 12% 748 FY25F 1,057.1 793 6% FY26F 1,120.5 6% 840 FY27F 1.187.7 891 FY28F 1,259.0 6% 944 FY29F 1.334.5 1001 6% 1061 FY30F 1,414.6 Total TAN consumption in the mining sector 2245 SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

DFPCL leverages Gujarat and other strategic locations to enhance operations and export opportunities ▶

Around 75% of DFPCL's manufacturing capacity is in Gujarat, a key advantage due to its proximity to industries like pharmaceuticals, dyes, and defence, which are major consumers of nitric acid. This location supports the company's investment of ~Rs20bn to enhance its operations. Additionally, DFPCL benefits from its TAN plants situated near major mining hubs in East and Central India, allowing efficient supply chains for its products. Despite challenges in FY24, the strategic location has enabled DFPCL to sustain growth, meet market demand, and capitalize on export opportunities, including the recent resumption of TAN exports after the lifting of the export ban in Mar 2024.





Mining chemicals business

Global Leader in TAN production and mining solutions with medical-grade ammonium nitrate ➤

Deepak Mining Solutions Private Limited (DMSPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of DFPCL, stands as one of the world's largest manufacturers of technical ammonium nitrate (TAN). The company produces a range of TAN products, including high-density ammonium nitrate (HDAN), low-density ammonium nitrate (LDAN), and ammonium nitrate melt (AN melt). DMSPL is the sole producer of explosives-grade TAN solids in India, and also manufactures medical-grade ammonium nitrate, which plays a crucial role in the production of medical-grade nitrous oxide, widely used as an anaesthetic and analgesic.

In addition to its product offerings, DMSPL provides consulting services to mining companies in both Australia and India. These services focus on reducing the total cost of ownership (TCO), helping mining companies enhance operational efficiency and minimize costs.

DFPCL shifts towards providing blasting solutions, expanding TAN offerings with ANFO for market growth ➤

DFPCL's evolution in the TAN segment shifts from being a traditional supplier to a comprehensive blasting solutions provider. Initially focused on producing various TAN grades—ammonium nitrate solution (ANSOL), LDAN, and HDAN—DFPCL served the mining, infrastructure, and construction industries for explosives production. Over time, the company expanded to include cartridge-based explosives and ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) bulk explosives, better meeting customer needs. This shift has enabled DFPCL to offer more tailored solutions, boosting its market value. By leveraging its leadership in the LDAN segment, DFPCL is transforming the market from conventional explosives to ANFO. The introduction of high-performance ANFO, as a cost-effective alternative to emulsion explosives, is set to drive further growth in its TAN business.

DFPCL enhances blasting efficiency with advanced tech and TCO services, strengthening its global market position ▶

DFPCL's transition includes advanced technical services and downstream operations to optimize blasting efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Key initiatives like total cost of ownership (TCO) projects and down-the-hole services are enhancing mine and quarry productivity through optimized drilling and blasting techniques. The company is deploying bulk mixing and delivery (BMD) trucks and plans to integrate cutting-edge technologies like drones and artificial intelligence or Al-based blast modelling to further improve operations and ensure regulatory compliance. This customer-centric approach has strengthened DFPCL's role as a strategic partner, not just a supplier, positioning it for sustained growth in Indian as well as overseas markets.

DFPCL optimizes mining efficiency with its TCO model, enhancing value across key value streams ➤

Total cost of ownership (TCO) in mining includes all costs from drilling to crushing. DFPCL's mining solutions business model optimizes TCO by enhancing five key value streams: drilling, blasting, excavation, transport, and crushing. Unlike traditional explosives manufacturers who charge only for inputs, DFPCL guarantees specific outcomes and shares the resulting benefits with clients. This innovative approach boosts efficiency and cost-effectiveness in mining and infrastructure projects, distinguishing DFPCL as a leader in the industry.

DFPCL targets 1mtpa TAN capacity with Rs22bn Gopalpur plant expansion to meet 60% of India's demand ➤

DFPCL commands a dominant ~44% share of the domestic TAN market and aims to become the third-largest global TAN manufacturer within the next five years by increasing its capacity from 586ktpa to nearly 1mtpa.



The company is advancing a major greenfield project at Gopalpur in Odisha, which will boost its TAN capacity by 376ktpa at a project cost of Rs22bn. This expansion will raise DFPCL's total installed capacity to ~1,000ktpa fulfilling about 60% of India's ammonium nitrate demand, up from 44% currently. Scheduled for commissioning by FY26F, the project's strategic location near key mining hubs and Gopalpur port will enhance both domestic distribution and export potential.

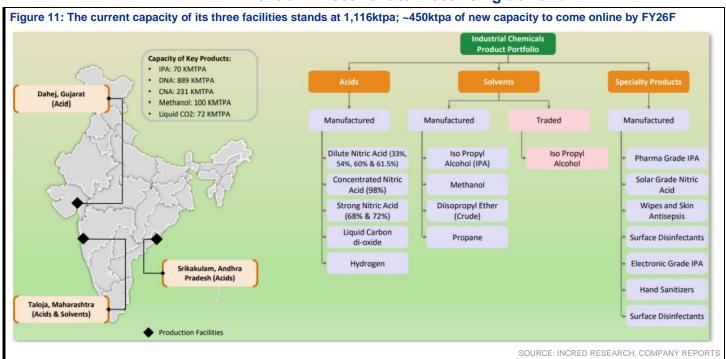
DFPCL secures reliable ammonia supply for Gopalpur project with strategic port agreement ➤

A key element of DFPCL's Gopalpur project is its agreement with Gopalpur port for the import of ammonia, a crucial raw material for TAN production. This partnership guarantees a reliable and efficient ammonia supply chain, essential for the smooth operation of the Gopalpur TAN plant. The plant's proximity to Gopalpur port not only streamlines ammonia imports but also provides DFPCL with a strategic advantage for exporting TAN products to international markets, including the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Meanwhile, the new ammonia plant at Taloja in Maharashtra will primarily support DFPCL's western facilities.

Industrial chemicals business

DFPCL is a leading manufacturer of industrial chemicals (ICs) in India, producing nitric acid, isopropyl alcohol (both pharmaceutical and industrial grades), and food-grade liquid carbon dioxide. The company also imports and supplies IPA and other chemicals in India. As a part of its strategy to transition from a commodity to a specialty chemicals company, DFPCL focuses on delivering value through tailored product solutions. By adopting value-based pricing and improving input cost management, the company has enhanced customer satisfaction and achieved stable earnings, solidifying its position in the market.

DFPCL expands DNA and CNA capacity by 450ktpa with a Rs20bn investment to meet rising demand ➤



DFPCL plans to add approximately 300ktpa of DNA and 150ktpa of CNA by FY26F, with an estimated project cost of ~Rs20bn, already sanctioned by banks for lending. This expansion aligns with DFPCL's strategic growth plan to meet the rising demand from downstream sectors like nitroaromatics, pharmaceuticals, and specialty chemicals, with ~78% of SNA (strong nitric acid) consumed by the nitroaromatics industry alone. The demand-supply gap in WNA (weak nitric acid) is expected to increase by ~380ktpa over the next five years, while the CNA gap



is projected to triple in the same period. In response to this, DFPCL has secured ~65% of its CNA capacity through a 20-year contract with Aarti Industries.

	FY20	FY21		FY22		FY23		FY24
Industrial Chemicals	Sales (in kt)	Sales (in kt)	Capacity (ktpa)	Sales (in kt)	Capacity (ktpa)	Sales (in KT)	Capacity (ktpa)	Sales (in kt)
CNA	138	143	231	164	231	167	231	159
SNA	28	23		24		26		30
DNA	70	59	885	66	885	86	885	88
Total Nitric Acid	236	225	1,116	254	1,116	279	1,116	278
IPA	62	55	70	65	70	44	70	64
Liquid CO2	55	45	66	52	66	58	66	47
Mining Chemicals								
LDAN	92	92		98		77		74
HDAN	285	270		293		308		298
AN Melt	59	66		97		117		133
Total	436	428	487	488	487	502	537	505
Crop Nutrition Business								
NP	220	245	300	164	300	193	300	209
NPK	286	441	600	364	600	376	800	363
Total	506	686	900	527	900	569	1,100	572
Bensulf	24	31	57	32	57	33	57	26

Figure 13: The 300ktpa WNA plant's capacity expansion would be subsequently used for captive consumption once the 500ktpa TAN plant ramps up FY25F FY26F FY27F FY28F FY29F FY30F **Industrial Chemicals** Capacity (ktpa) Sales (in kt) Capacity (ktpa) Sales (in kt) Capacity (ktpa) Sales (in kt) Sales (in kt) Sales (in kt) Sales (in kt) **Total Nitric Acid** 1566 673 1566 453 394 380 1116 236 70 67 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 Liquid CO2 66 48 66 50 66 51 53 56 54 Mining Chemicals Total TAN 562 559 587 575 963 801 857 932 951 **Crop Nutrition Business** NP 300 300 300 NPK 800 800 800 590 607 626 664 Total 1,100 1,100 1,100 644 684

28

57

Bensulf

57

27

DFPCL secures 20-year nitric acid supply agreement with Aarti Industries, ensuring long-term growth

30

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SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

DFPCL and Aarti Industries (ARTO) have signed a binding 20-year term sheet for the offtake and supply of nitric acid, effective from 1 Apr 2023. This agreement provides ARTO with long-term supply security for a key raw material. The contract will consume 40-45% of DFPCL's current nitric acid capacity (both weak and concentrated), with potential for a further increase based on demand. Under the deal, prices are fixed on a cost-plus model up to a specified volume, and market-linked for volume exceeding the threshold. This long-term agreement, compared to the previous 4–5-year contracts, underscores the growing and sustained demand for nitric acid.

DFPCL commercializes solar-grade nitric acid and targets growing demand in steel and specialty chemicals

DFPCL has successfully commercialized solar-grade nitric acid (SGNA), receiving positive feedback from solar-cell manufacturers and securing repeat orders. The company has also completed multi-stage commercial trials for steel-grade nitric acid, targeting steel pickling applications, with a planned launch soon. The demand for nitric acid is expected to grow in the medium- to long-term, driven by its increasing use in industries such as steel, pharmaceuticals, aromatics, and explosives, along with the emerging 'China Plus One' trend benefiting India's specialty chemical sector.

DFPCL boosts SGNA production, capitalizing on 2x higher margin in specialty nitric acid

DFPCL is strategically enhancing SGNA production at its Taloja facility to meet rising demand. The company's shift from commodity to specialty nitric acid products is yielding promising results, with specialty grades offering 2x higher margin compared to general-grade acids. The brownfield site at Dahej presents further opportunities for cost-effective capacity expansions. With the Government



of India's production-linked incentive or PLI schemes supporting the solar and electronics sectors, demand for premium specialty nitric acid is expected to grow, reinforcing DFPCL's position in high-growth markets.

Market leader in isopropyl alcohol (IPA)

- Market leadership: DFPCL is the largest producer of isopropyl alcohol (IPA) in India, offering reliable supply through both manufactured and imported products. It is the only pharmacopeia-compliant IPA manufacturer in the country, adhering to specific guidelines set by recognized pharmacopeia authorities.
- Market growth: The IPA market in India is poised to post a CAGR of 6-7%, driven by rising consumption in pharmaceuticals and chemical industries. In FY23, the IPA market stood at 220ktpa, and it is expected to touch 392ktpa by FY30F.
- Comprehensive product range: DFPCL stands out as the only player offering
 a complete portfolio of IPA variants, including industrial grade (IG), pharma
 grade (PG), and pharmacopoeia-compliant grades (IP, EP, BP, CP, USP) in
 various pack sizes.
- Value-added applications: DFPCL is strategically positioning its IPA-based solutions for premium applications across pharmaceuticals, electronics, and disinfection. The company launched its Cororid brand in FY21, focusing on IPA-based products like hand sanitizers, disinfectants, and wipes. The brand has received strong domestic market feedback, reinforcing DFPCL's commitment to value-added product innovation.

DFPCL manufactures IPA using refinery-grade propylene (RGP) as a feedstock, backed by a long-term sourcing contract with Bharat Petroleum Corporation or BPCL. Unlike Deepak Nitrite and Deepak Phenolics and many international producers who use acetone (a more readily available and cost-effective feedstock), DFPCL's capacity is tailored for RGP, making a switch to acetone impractical. However, the continuous supply of RGP ensures uninterrupted production and the potential for margin expansion as feedstock prices decline. Propylene-based IPA commands a 15-20% premium over benzene-based IPA, as it is primarily used in high-end applications such as pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, while acetone-based IPA is typically used in disinfectants.

Crop nutrition business

- Business structure: DFPCL's crop nutrition business is operated under its wholly-owned subsidiary, Mahadhan Agritech (MAL). This includes 48 products such as value-added fertilizers, specialty fertilizers, water-soluble fertilizers, micronutrients, and secondary nutrients.
- Geographical presence & market share: DFPCL has a strong foothold in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat, particularly in the horticultural belt. The company commands a 20% market share in NPK fertilizers in Maharashtra and is the only manufacturer of 24:24:0 nitro phosphate (NP) fertilizer. DFPCL is actively expanding its reach into southern and northern states of India.
- Manufacturing capacity: DFPCL is among the top five NPK manufacturers in India and the largest producer of bentonite sulphur. Its manufacturing facilities are located at Taloja (Maharashtra) and Panipat (Haryana), with a total capacity of 300ktpa for nitro phosphates and 800ktpa for NPK fertilizers. The company also operates a 57,000mt greenfield bentonite sulphur plant at Panipat, catering to sulphur-deficient regions in North India. Additionally, DFPCL imports NPK and DAP fertilizers to meet the needs of farmers.
- High-efficiency brands: DFPCL has introduced high-value products like Mahadhan Croptek, India's first crop-specific balanced nutrition product, launched in FY22. Powered by Nutrient Unlock Technology (NUT), Croptek enhances nutrient bioavailability, delivering a balanced formulation with essential nutrients for crops like onions, cotton, sugarcane, and maize. This product commands premium prices in key markets due to its advanced technology and superior efficiency.



Ammonium nitrate

Ammonium nitrate (AN) is a widely used chemical compound with significant applications in agriculture, mining, and defence industries.

Manufacturing process ➤

Ammonia and nitric acid reaction:- The primary raw materials for the production of ammonium nitrate (AN) are ammonia (NH₃) and nitric acid (HNO₃). The chemical reaction involved is as follows:

NH3+HNO3→NH4NO3

330gm ammonia reacts with 790gm nitric acid to produce 1kg ammonium nitrate and water. This is an exothermic reaction, releasing heat, and it occurs in a neutralization reactor.

Grades of the chemical >

- AN (96-99.8%) + additives (0.2-4%) → low-density ammonium nitrate (LDAN).
- AN (96-99.8%) + additives (0.2-4%) \rightarrow high-density ammonium nitrate (HDAN).
- AN (85-92%) + water (8-15%) → ammonium nitrate solution (ANSOL).

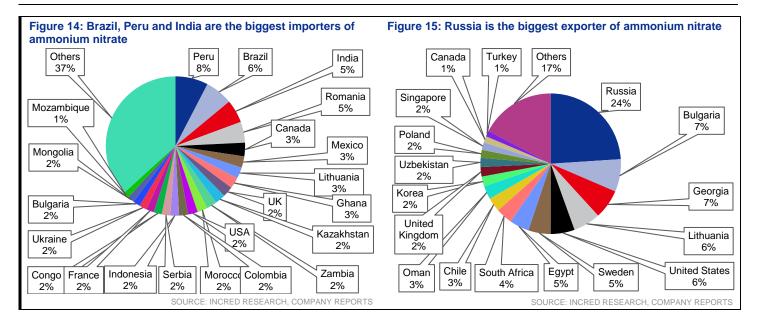
Applications of the chemical >

- Fertiliser-grade ammonium nitrite (FGAN): It is used in agriculture to provide nitrogenous content. Of all the grades, FGAN is the most used grade of ammonium nitrate. This grade is essential for enhancing plant growth and crop yields, making it a critical component in the agricultural sector.
- Technical-grade ammonium nitrate (TAN): It is used in making explosives for mining, and construction. TAN is predominantly used in the manufacture of civil explosives and for chemical purposes. It is a key raw material in mining and construction industries, where it is utilized for its oxidizing properties to produce explosives. In India, coal mining accounts for ~63% of TAN consumption, non-coal mining ~9% and infrastructure ~28%.
- Electronic-grade ammonium nitrate (EGAN): It is a highly purified grade used in manufacturing circuits and microchips.
- Medical-grade ammonium nitrate (MGAN): It is used in healthcare to produce nitrous oxide, which serves as an analgesic and anaesthetic in surgery and dentistry.

Russia is the primary producer and exporter of ammonium nitrate >

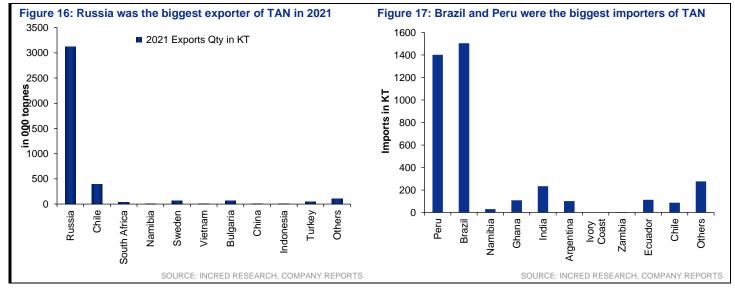
Russia is the primary producer and exporter of ammonium nitrate. The country produces close to 11mt of ammonium nitrate. Ammonia is the primary source of two important ingredients that go into making ammonium nitrate. As Russia has a huge production of natural gas, it can produce ammonium nitrate in a cost-effective manner.

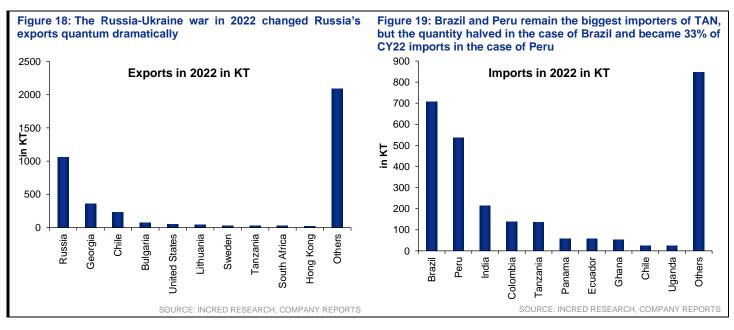




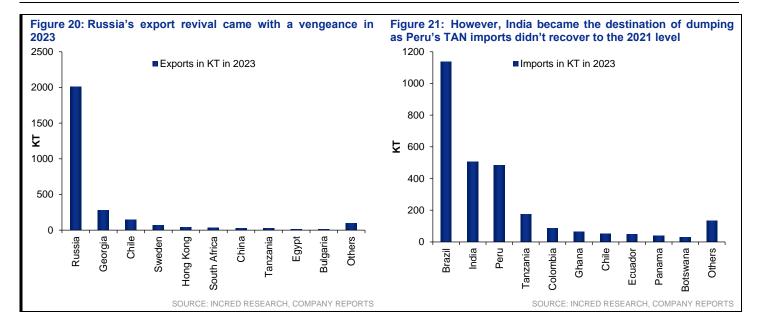
The TAN supply chain was distorted in 2022 and 2023 because of the Russia-Ukraine war ➤

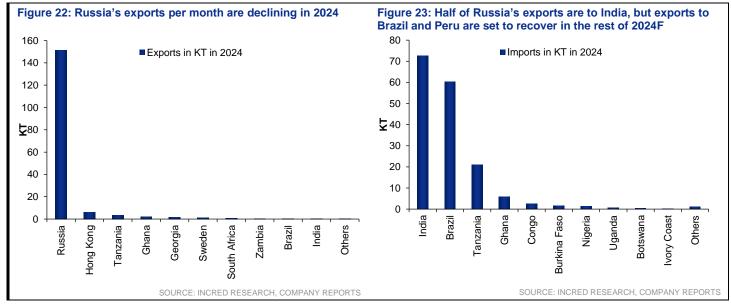
The Russia-Ukraine war distorted the TAN supply chain in 2022 and 2023.



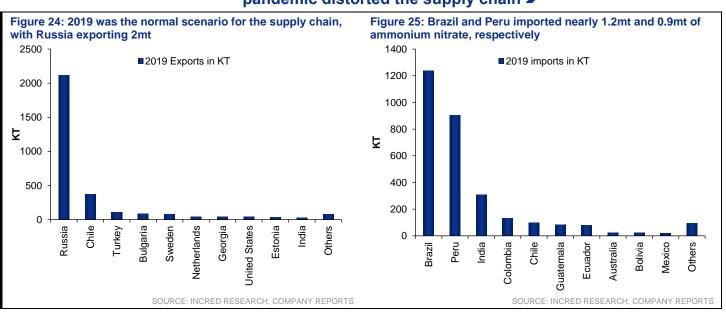




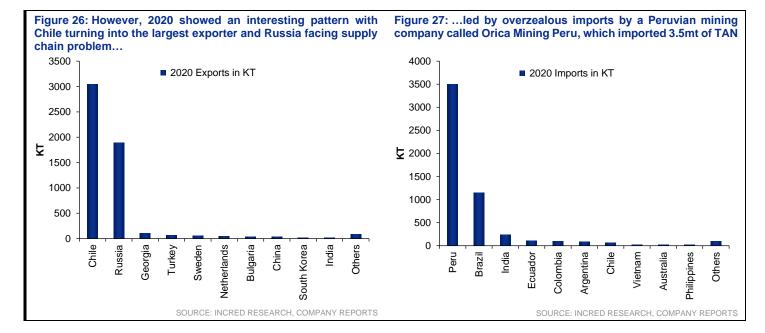




The examples of Chile and Peru showed how the Covid-19 pandemic distorted the supply chain ➤

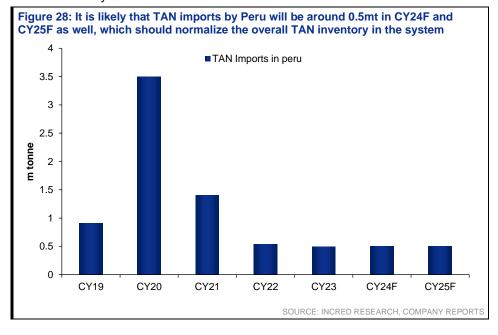






However, after three-to-four years of lower imports, the inventory in Peruvian mining industry will come to the normal level >

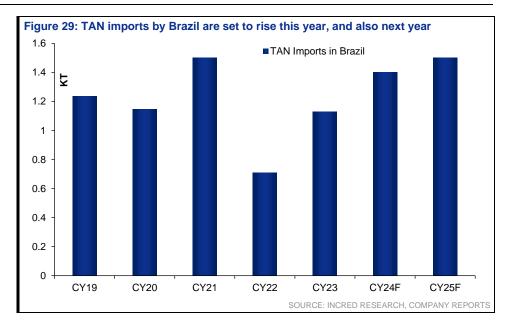
Given the huge mining infrastructure, TAN imports of Peru normally are in the range of 1-1.2mt per annum. Higher imports in CY20 and CY21 are being followed by lower imports in CY22/23 and may be in CY24F as well. This will normalize the overall inventory level in Peru.



However, Brazil's TAN imports may rise in CY24F and CY25F ➤

Brazil's mining industry is totally dependent on Chinese production and as China ramps up the production of steel and other metals, Brazil's mining production is set to rise. This makes us believe that TAN imports by Brazil will pick up in the coming months.





Consequently, India's TAN imports to come down in the coming months and prices will recover ➤

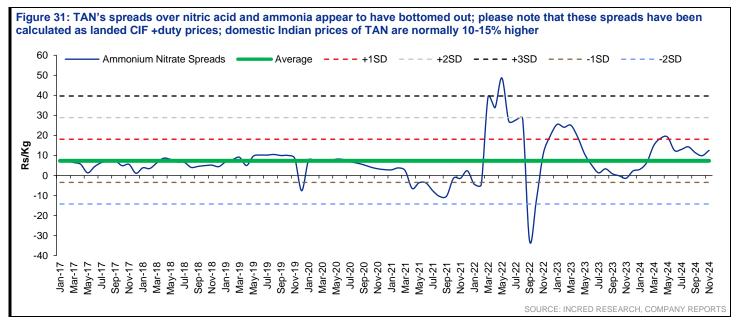
India's TAN imports in the first couple of months of this year have been at 0.72mt, which is ~50% of Russia's exports. However, till Mar 2024, we haven't seen even 1kg of TAN imports by India. Assuming that everything else remains the same, rising Brazilian imports will lead to lower shipments in India, ergo Indian prices should rise. We are witnessing the first signs of the same as Indian TAN prices are recovering.

Global TAN prices are also recovering ➤





TAN's spreads over ammonia and nitric acid appear to have bottomed out ➤



Nitric acid

Nitric acid (HNO3) is a strong chemical used in industries to make explosives, fertilizers, and clean metals.

Grades of the chemical >

- Nitric acid (98-99%) + water (1-2%) → concentrated nitric acid (CNA).
- Nitric acid (64-72%) + water (28-36%) → strong nitric acid (SNA).
- Nitric acid (60%) + water (40%) → diluted nitric acid (DNA).

270-280gm ammonia is needed to produce 1kg of nitric acid. This is an exothermic reaction, releasing heat, and it occurs in a neutralization reactor.

Nitric acid manufacturing process (Ostwald Process) ▶

- Ammonia oxidation: Ammonia is oxidized using air in a platinum-rhodium catalyst at high temperatures (~800-900°C) to produce nitrogen monoxide (NO) and water vapour.
- Oxidation of NO2: The nitrogen monoxide reacts with oxygen in the air to form nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).
- Absorption of NO₂ in water: Nitrogen dioxide is absorbed in water, where it reacts to form nitric acid (HNO₃). The concentration is typically around 50-70%.
- Concentrated nitric acid: To produce concentrated nitric acid (98-99%), the
 weak acid undergoes a concentration process using sulfuric acid (dehydrating
 agent) or by direct distillation.

The global nitric acid industry

The global nitric acid market is estimated to touch 67,330kt in 2024F and is projected to grow to 78,510kt by 2029F, with a CAGR of 3.2% during the forecast period (2024-2029F). The Asia-Pacific region is expected to remain the dominant market for nitric acid, driven by the largest production and consumption of fertilizers in countries like China, India, and South Korea. Leading global producers of nitric acid include Yara International ASA (Norway), BASF SE (Germany), TKG Huchems (South Korea), Nutrien Ag Solutions (Canada), CF Industries Holdings (United States), and DFPCL (India).

The Indian nitric acid market

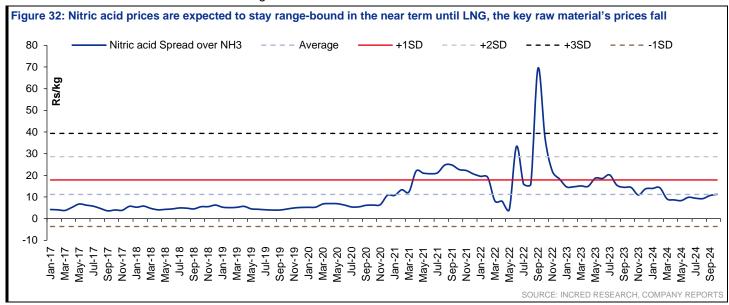
The Indian nitric acid industry is approximately 1,800kt, primarily fuelled by the fertilizer sector. Nitric acid is essential for producing ammonium nitrate, a key



component in nitrate-based fertilizers that support domestic agricultural activities. This close connection between the nitric acid market and the agricultural sector underscores the strong demand for fertilizers, which drives the growth of the nitric acid industry in India.

Nitric acid prices to rise in coming months

The global ammonia and nitric acid market is undergoing significant changes due to key factors such as stricter environmental regulations and rising compliance costs, which have led to the closure of ammonia production facilities across Europe, reducing regional supply. Additionally, higher domestic demand and LNG exports are driving up natural gas prices, increasing production costs for ammonia producers, particularly in Europe. As a result, global prices for ammonia and nitric acid are expected to rise, benefiting producers in regions like India, where raw material costs are lower. However, industries that rely on these chemicals, such as fertilizer and explosives manufacturers, may face challenges due to these higher costs.



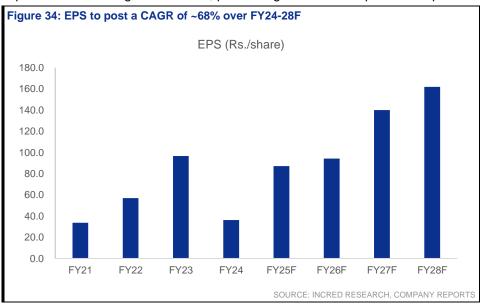
Management team details **>**

Figure 33: Key manager	ment personnel	
Name of the Director	Designation	Profile
Mr. Sailesh Chimanlal Mehta	Chairman & Managing Director	He currently serves as the chairman & managing director of Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corporation (DFPCL). He has been associated with the company for more than 30 years and has played a pivotal role in its growth and expansion. Mr. Mehta has a management degree from the University of Texas, USA.
Mr. Deepak Rastogi	Chief Financial Officer	Mr. Rastogi has over 17 years of working experience in the field of corporate relations, strategy, corporate communications and financial planning & analysis. He is a chartered accountant (ICAI) and holds a post graduate degree in management (PGDM).
Mr. Mahesh Giridhar	President – Crop Nutritionals	Mr. Giridhar has over two decades of professional experience and is associated with DFPCL for three years. Prior to DFPCL, he worked as Global Crop Lead at Bayer Crop Science in Singapore since 2010 and previously was the Country Head, Bayer BioScience India, based in Hyderabad.
Mr. Tarun Sinha	President – Technical Ammonia Nitrate	Mr. Sinha has over 30 years of combined experience in the mining and steel industries and has spent 24 years working with Orica, the world's largest explosive manufacturer. He has a Bachelor of Technology (Mining Engineering) degree from Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.
Mr. Shanmugamath M	President – Industrial Chemical	Mr. Shanmugamath has around 28 years. Prior to joining DFPCL, he was associated with Dow Chemical as a commercial director.
Mr. Mukul Agrawal	President – Manufacturing	Mr. Agrawal has rich experience of approx. 30 years and during this span, he has worked across various domains such as chemicals, ammonia, fertilizers, engineering polymers, fine chemicals, carbon black, viscoelastic fibres, etc
Mr. Pandurang Landge	President – Commercials & Strategic Growth	Mr. Landge has 39 years of diverse experience of operations, projects conceptualization, projects and product development, execution, commercialization, and running businesses.
Mr. Arun Vijayakumar	President – Projects	Mr. Vijayakumar has 26 years of extensive experience in managing integrated and large multi-phased complex engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) projects in petrochemical and refining field. He has done his MBA from S.P. Jain Institute of Management Research, Mumbai.
Mr. Romy Sahay	President – Human Resources	Mr. Sahay has over 28 years of experience in leading HR for multi-units and large geographically distributed workforces. He has worked in the field of HR management (managing manufacturing operations) at Dr. Reddy's Laboratories.
		SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



Earnings and valuation >

We forecast a robust earnings growth of ~68% over FY24-28F, driven by the expansion in DFPCL's TAN and nitric acid segments, coupled with a strong demand outlook in key downstream industries like mining and nitroaromatics. Additionally, the company's backward integration of ammonia production is expected to create significant value, positioning DFPCL to outperform its peers.





Chemicals - Others | India
Deepak Fertilisers & Petrochemicals Ltd | December 20, 2024



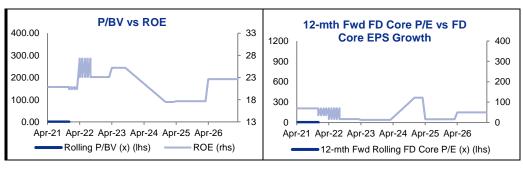
Figure 37: Peer con	nparison					
	P/E	P/B	EV/EBITDA	ROE	ROCE	
DFPCL	22.2	2.4	10.4	7.7%	10.7%	
RCF	53.4	2.2	14.7	4.2%	6.2%	
GNFC	20.1	1.1	7.5	5.6%	7.7%	
NFL	16.2	2.3	6.6	5.6%	6.7%	
		SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS				

We value the stock at a historical P/E of 14.8x FY27F EPS to arrive at our target price of Rs2,051

target price of Rs2,051; initiate coverage on it with an ADD rating				
Item	Unit	Valuation		
Core FY27F EPS	Rs/share	139		
Average P/E	Х	14.8		
One-year forward multiple	Х	14.8		
End-FY26F price	Rs/share	2,052		
One-year forward target price	Rs/share	2,051		
	SOURCE: INCRED RESEAR	CH COMPANY REPORTS		



BY THE NUMBERS



(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Net Revenues	113,007	86,761	94,323	98,510	124,566
Gross Profit	36,315	27,780	32,941	36,386	48,610
Operating EBITDA	21,654	12,867	19,437	22,719	31,900
Depreciation And Amortisation	(2,392)	(3,337)	(3,722)	(4,209)	(4,959)
Operating EBIT	19,262	9,530	15,715	18,509	26,941
Financial Income/(Expense)	(1,947)	(4,038)	(3,126)	(3,861)	(4,792)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	840	1,228	943	985	1,246
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	18,155	6,720	13,532	15,634	23,395
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	18,155	6,720	13,532	15,634	23,395
Taxation	(5,946)	(2,147)	(3,410)	(3,940)	(5,895)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	12,209	4,572	10,122	11,694	17,499
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	12,209	4,572	10,122	11,694	17,499
Recurring Net Profit	12,209	4,572	10,122	11,694	17,499
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	12,209	4,572	10,122	11,694	17,499

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
EBITDA	21,654	12,867	19,437	22,719	31,900
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	(11,705)	(2,618)	(1,249)	(701)	(4,215)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense					
Other Operating Cashflow	(1,464)	(3,629)	(2,182)	(2,876)	(3,546)
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	1,806	3,832	3,126	3,861	4,792
Tax Paid	(5,361)	(3,134)	(3,410)	(3,940)	(5,895)
Cashflow From Operations	4,931	7,318	15,721	19,063	23,035
Capex	(12,084)	(8,848)	(12,000)	(18,000)	(20,000)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	2,295	5,096			
Cash Flow From Investing	(9,788)	(3,752)	(12,000)	(18,000)	(20,000)
Debt Raised/(repaid)					
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares					
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(1,142)	(1,264)	(2,429)	(2,807)	(4,200)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	7,181	(2,835)	5,274	8,739	9,208
Cash Flow From Financing	6,039	(4,099)	2,845	5,933	5,009
Total Cash Generated	1,182	(533)	6,566	6,996	8,043
Free Cashflow To Equity	(4,857)	3,566	3,721	1,063	3,035
Free Cashflow To Firm	(6,847)	(472)	596	(2,797)	(1,757)

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Cash And Equivalents	4,987	3,609	10,176	17,172	25,215
Total Debtors	16,905	14,758	16,044	16,756	21,188
Inventories	12,589	11,924	12,410	12,560	15,356
Total Other Current Assets	3,388	8,704	8,704	8,704	8,704
Total Current Assets	37,869	38,996	47,333	55,192	70,463
Fixed Assets	59,244	67,397	75,675	89,466	104,507
Total Investments	8,744	5,753	5,753	5,753	5,753
Intangible Assets	812	808	808	808	808
Total Other Non-Current Assets	7,543	5,350	5,350	5,350	5,350
Total Non-current Assets	76,343	79,307	87,585	101,376	116,417
Short-term Debt	3,824	9,826	9,826	9,826	9,826
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	17,774	12,849	13,372	13,533	16,546
Other Current Liabilities	5,987	7,268	7,268	7,268	7,268
Total Current Liabilities	27,585	29,943	30,466	30,628	33,641
Total Long-term Debt	32,310	30,626	39,026	51,626	65,626
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	1,187	2,012	2,012	2,012	2,012
Total Non-current Liabilities	33,497	32,638	41,038	53,638	67,638
Total Provisions	1,198	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,261
Total Liabilities	62,279	63,843	72,766	85,527	102,540
Shareholders Equity	50,670	54,082	61,775	70,663	83,962
Minority Interests	1,263	378	378	378	378
Total Equity	51,933	54,460	62,153	71,041	84,340

Key Ratios					
	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue Growth	47.5%	(23.2%)	8.7%	4.4%	26.5%
Operating EBITDA Growth	59.7%	(40.6%)	51.1%	16.9%	40.4%
Operating EBITDA Margin	19.2%	14.8%	20.6%	23.1%	25.6%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	(246.73)	(291.85)	(306.38)	(350.77)	(397.95)
BVPS (Rs)	401.38	428.41	489.35	559.75	665.10
Gross Interest Cover	9.89	2.36	5.03	4.79	5.62
Effective Tax Rate	32.8%	32.0%	25.2%	25.2%	25.2%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio					
Accounts Receivables Days	37.31	66.60	59.60	60.76	55.59
Inventory Days	54.82	75.85	72.35	73.35	67.07
Accounts Payables Days	75.98	94.75	77.96	79.04	72.27
ROIC (%)	18.8%	8.0%	12.0%	12.3%	15.3%
ROCE (%)	25.0%	10.4%	15.3%	15.2%	18.4%
Return On Average Assets	13.6%	6.5%	9.8%	10.0%	12.3%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



Chemicals - Others | India Deepak Fertilisers & Petrochemicals Ltd | December 20, 2024

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Recommendation	Framework
Stock Ratings	Definition:
Add	The stock's total return is expected to exceed 10% over the next 12 months.
Hold	The stock's total return is expected to be between 0% and positive 10% over the next 12 months.
Reduce	The stock's total return is expected to fall below 0% or more over the next 12 months.
	eturn of a stock is defined as the sum of the: (i) percentage difference between the target price and the current price and (ii) the forward net e stock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12 months.
Sector Ratings	Definition:
Overweight	An Overweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a positive absolute recommendation.
Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.
Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.
Country Ratings	Definition:
Overweight	An Overweight rating means investors should be positioned with an above-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.
Neutral	A Neutral rating means investors should be positioned with a neutral weight in this country relative to benchmark.
Underweight	An Underweight rating means investors should be positioned with a below-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.
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