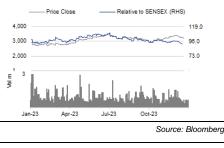
India

REDUCE (no change)

Consensus ratings*: Buy 11 F	Hold 11 Sell 14
Current price:	Rs3,242
Target price:	Rs3,000
Previous target:	Rs3,000
Up/downside:	-7.5%
InCred Research / Consensus:	-8.1%
Reuters:	ASPN.NS
Bloomberg:	APNT IN
Market cap:	US\$37,409m
	Rs3,110,007m
Average daily turnover:	US\$34.6m
	Rs2880.1m
Current shares o/s:	959.2m
Free float: *Source: Bloomberg	47.4%

Key changes in this note

Raise FY24F/25F EPS by 5.1%/0.5%.



Price performance Absolute (%)	1M (2.7)	ЗМ 4.7	<i>12M</i> 10.1
Relative (%)	(2.9)	(3.5)	(6.0)
Major shareholders		Q	% held
Promoter and Promote	er Group		52.6
LIC			5.0
Vanguard Group			1.9

Research Analyst(s)



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Asian Paints Limited

Margins likely to remain rangebound

- Consolidated sales in 3QFY24 grew 5.4% yoy. The decorative/industrial segments grew 5.2%/11.5% yoy, respectively. Volume growth stood at 12%.
- Management is optimistic about continued double-digit volume growth in 4QFY24F. Margins are likely to taper off gradually post FY24F.
- As competition intensifies with Grasim's entry into the market, we see limited room for near-term margin expansion. Retain REDUCE with a TP of Rs3,000.

Double-digit volume growth driven by both urban and rural markets

Asian Paints' (APNT) reported a 5.2% yoy sales growth in its decorative business, driven by a 12% volume growth, indicating a price cut of 6.8%, in 3QFY24. The industrial segment continued to post faster growth in 3Q, growing 11.5% yoy. Both urban and rural markets performed well for the decorative segment, driving a double-digit growth across the luxury and economy ranges, while the premium range grew at a slower pace. The international business division's (IBD) sales growth was flat yoy (+5% yoy in constant currency or CC terms), largely driven by the macroeconomic uncertainty and forex-related constraints in the key markets of South Asia and Egypt. The IBD posted a PBT margin of 9%, up 266bp yoy. With competitive intensity likely to step up from 4QFY24F post Grasim's entry, we expect the pricing to remain a key lever for continued growth as the consumer sentiment is likely to remain subdued, which may impact growth.

Industrial biz maintains its pace; home décor biz remains subdued

Asian Paints' home improvement business continues to remain subdued, with the bath business declining by 5% yoy while the kitchen business was flat in 3QFY24, after four consecutive quarters of a double-digit decline. Management targets taking the home décor business to 8-10% of the decorative segment's sales by FY26F, from 4% currently. Within the industrial segment, PPG-AP (auto OEM) revenue grew 12% led by the refinish and automobile OEM segments, with its highest-ever PBT margin of 22.2% in 3QFY24. AP-PPG posted a 10% yoy growth led by protective and powder coatings. The PBT margin stood at 11.5%. The brownfield expansion at Khandala and Kasna plants has been completed and their capacity has been expanded by 1,00,000 KLPA at each facility.

Margins likely to taper off gradually from here on; retain REDUCE

While the festive demand lifted sales growth in 3Q, and 4QFY24F is likely to continue recording a double-digit volume growth, we expect value growth to remain subdued as Asian Paints is likely to continue stepping up its rebating intensity, leading to further price cuts in the decorative paints segment. Management maintains its guidance of a 18-20% EBITDA margin in the medium term. We expect the competitive intensity to step up gradually from 4QFY24F with the launch of Birla Opus, and lower pricing power in the case of raw material inflation leading to a challenging environment in the near term. We maintain our REDUCE rating on the stock with a Mar 2025F target price of Rs3,000 (50x FY26F EPS). Upside risk: The company maintaining its market share despite intense competition.

Financial Summary	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Revenue (Rsm)	291,013	344,886	364,182	395,806	432,939
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	48,036	62,598	78,063	79,225	81,862
Net Profit (Rsm)	30,308	41,065	55,888	55,849	57,837
Core EPS (Rs)	32.5	43.2	58.3	58.2	60.3
Core EPS Growth	(3.1%)	32.9%	34.9%	(0.1%)	3.6%
FD Core P/E (x)	102.62	75.73	55.65	55.69	53.77
DPS (Rs)	19.1	24.6	31.3	31.1	32.0
Dividend Yield	0.57%	0.62%	0.97%	0.96%	0.99%
EV/EBITDA (x)	64.52	49.50	39.30	38.59	37.18
P/FCFE (x)	269.00	137.44	61.50	74.17	68.96
Net Gearing	(10.0%)	(9.8%)	(24.2%)	(26.6%)	(29.3%)
P/BV (x)	21.90	19.45	16.66	14.67	13.04
ROE	23.1%	27.4%	32.2%	28.0%	25.7%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			5.08%	0.50%	(0.49%)
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

Margins to remain rangebound

Key takeaways from the earnings call

Decorative business

- Volumes were up 12% yoy in 3QFY24 (up 9% yoy in 9MFY24) led by a healthy growth across the urban and rural markets, with early signs of a recovery visible in the rural market. T1-T3 cities posted similar growth, which led to growth in the economy range.
- Improvement in the sales mix was led by the luxury and economy range (typically c.80% of the demand for emulsions) growing in double digits. The premium range grew at a slower pace. The waterproofing range continued to post strong growth.
- The projects business continued to grow led by builder, industrial and government sectors. Over the last six-to-seven years, growth has been strong. Asian Paints is a part of the projects in Ayodhya and other notable projects. A large portion of airport expansion projects across India use Asian Paints' waterproofing and decorative paint products.
- New products or NPD contributed 12% to overall sales. 30% of its patents have been commercialized as of 3QFY24-end.
- The distribution network expansion continued, adding 2,000 touch points in 3QFY24.
- The Khandala and Kasna factories, which commenced operations in 3QFY24, will add 2,00,000 KLPA to the company's overall capacity.
- Safe painting services have now been extended to over 650 towns. The vertical integration of painting tools, including spraying machines, has been rolled out.

International business

- Africa revenue was up 10% yoy at Rs2,010m.
- Middle East revenue was up 5% yoy at Rs2,520m.
- Asia revenue was down 11% yoy at Rs2,890m led by the liquidity crunch in Nepal and the macroeconomic uncertainty in Bangladesh. Sri Lanka business witnessed a recovery.
- South Pacific revenue was up 13% yoy at Rs450m.

Industrial business

- **PPG-AP (auto OEM):** Revenue grew 12% yoy to Rs5,760m in 3QFY24 led by refinish and automobile OEM segments. The PBT margin stood at 22.2% in 3QFY24 vs. 17.8% in 3QFY23.
- **AP-PPG (general industrial)** Posted a 10% yoy revenue growth led by protective coatings and powder coatings segments. The PBT margin stood at 11.5% in 3QFY24 vs. 9.8% in 3QFY23.

Home decor business

- Home decor business currently accounts for 4% of the decorative paints business. Targeting 8-10% by FY26F.
- Beautiful Homes platform now at 54 stores across 11 cities.
- White teak: Revenue grew 18% yoy to Rs340m. Well accepted by architects and designers. Seeing good synergy from the Beautiful Homes platform.
- Weather Seal more than doubled its revenue to Rs140m in 3QFY24.
- Kitchen business was flat yoy in 3QFY24 after four quarters of continued decline. The focus remains on expanding the reach.

• Bath products business declined by 5% yoy in 3QFY24 led by weak demand at the industry level. The focus will be on propping up the category and synergizing it with the Beautiful Homes platform.

Margins and input costs

- Raw material deflation stood at 0.2% while price cuts were taken to the tune of 1% in 3QFY24 (vs. raw material deflation of 7% in 3QFY23/inflation of 2% with a 1% price hike in 2QFY23).
- The benefits from backward integration will take some time to trickle in as they will become operational towards the end of next year.
- Management maintains its EBITDA margin guidance of 18-20% for FY24F.

Outlook

- Management expects the double-digit volume growth momentum to sustain in 4QFY24F. T3-T4 cities are showing an uptick and are expected to continue the trend in the near term.
- Management is optimistic about growth in the industrial business and scaling up the home decor foray.
- The raw material deflationary trend is likely to continue in 4QFY24F.
- Macroeconomic headwinds are likely to persist in the international market, especially South Asia and Egypt.

Figure 1: Quarterly summary - Consolidated								
Y/E Mar (Rs m)	3QFY23	2QFY24	3QFY24	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	9MFY23	9MFY24	(%)
Revenue	86,367	84,786	91,031	5.4	7.4	2,57,013	2,67,640	4.1
Expenditure	70,253	67,623	70,470	0.3	4.2	2,13,062	2,09,111	-1.9
Consumption of RM	53,058	48,015	51,336	-3.2	6.9	1,61,033	1,51,755	-5.8
as % of sales	61.4	56.6	56.4			62.7	56.7	
Employee Cost	5,038	5,961	5,702	13.2	-4.3	15,060	17,527	16.4
as % of sales	5.8	7.0	6.3			5.9	6.5	
Other expenditure	12,158	13,648	13,432	10.5	-1.6	36,969	39,829	7.7
as % of sales	14.1	16.1	14.8			14.4	14.9	
EBITDA	16,114	17,162	20,561	27.6	19.8	43,951	58,529	33.2
Depreciation	2,141	2,087	2,204	2.9	5.6	6,379	6,274	-1.6
EBIT	13,974	15,075	18,357	31.4	21.8	37,572	52,255	39.1
Other Income	866	1,652	1,386	60.1	-16.1	2,810	5,009	78.2
Interest	414	509	544	31.5	6.9	1,055	1,511	43.1
PBT	14,426	16,218	19,199	33.1	18.4	39,327	55,753	41.8
Total Tax	3,811	4,186	4,926	29.2	17.7	10,421	14,413	38.3
PAT	10,614	12,033	14,273	34.5	18.6	28,906	41,340	43.0
Minority Interest	-113	-22	-204	81.5	846.3	-59	-288	389.0
Adjusted Net Profit	10,727	12,054	14,477	35.0	20.1	28,965	41,628	43.7
Extraordinary Items	0	0	0	NA	NA	242	-407	-268.1
Reported Net Profit	10,727	12,054	14,477	35.0	20.1	28,723	42,035	46.3
Adjusted EPS	11.2	12.6	15.1	35.0	20.1	30.2	43.4	43.7
Margins (%)	3QFY23	2QFY24	3QFY24	YoY (bp)	QoQ (bp)	9MFY23	9MFY24	(bp)
Gross Margin	38.6	43.4	43.6	500	20	37.3	43.3	600
EBITDA	18.7	20.2	22.6	390	230	17.1	21.9	480
EBIT	16.2	17.8	20.2	400	240	14.6	19.5	490
EBT	16.7	19.1	21.1	440	200	15.3	20.8	550
PAT	12.3	14.2	15.7	340	150	11.2	15.4	420
Effective Tax Rate	26.4	25.8	25.7	-80	-10	26.5	25.9	-60
				SOUR	CE: INCRED	RESEARCH	, COMPANY I	REPORTS

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Figure 4: AP-PPG sales grew 10.1% yoy in 3QFY24

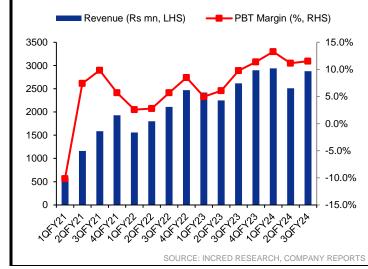


Figure 6: Africa revenue grew 9.8% yoy in 3QFY24

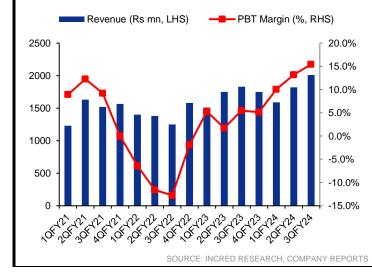
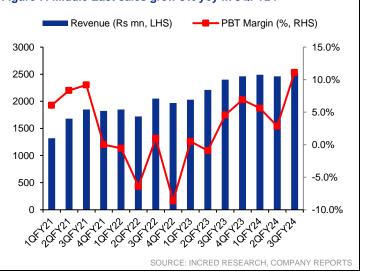
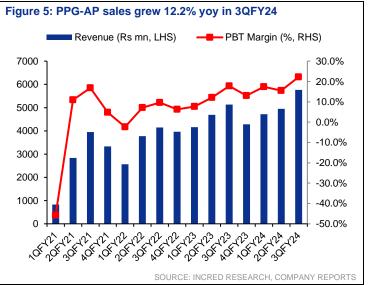


Figure 7: Middle East sales grew 5% yoy in 3QFY24



12%

304724



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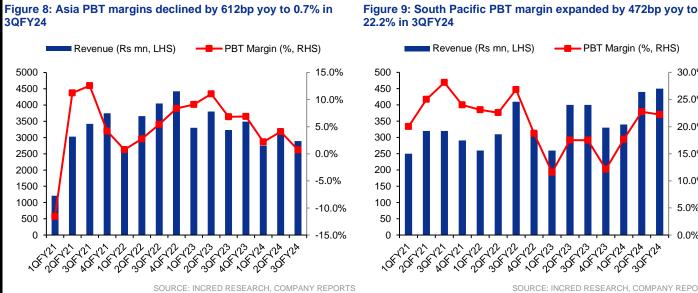
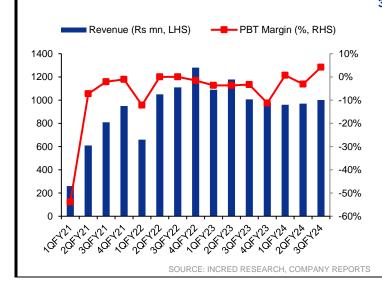


Figure 10: Kitchen products business was flat yoy in 3QFY24



53,188

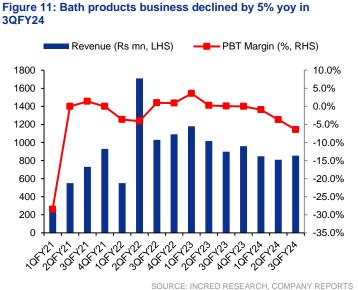
55.5

Net Profit

EPS

22.2% in 3QFY24 Revenue (Rs mn, LHS) PBT Margin (%, RHS) 500 30.0% 450 25.0% 400 350 20.0% 300 15.0% 250 200 10.0% 150 100 5.0% 50 205 305 D RC RC 0 0.0% 40F722 , OF 724 204724 , OF 722 AOFT 304 72A 304721 AOF 121 208 'QE

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



20.0

58.2

55,849

32bp

0.5

Figure 12: Our revised earnings estimates FY24F FY25F Y/E Mar (Rs m) Earlier Revised % Change Earlier Revised % Change Earlier 3,72,085 3,64,182 4,03,731 3,95,806 4,41,608 Revenue (2.0)(2.1)83,460 EBITDA 76,509 2.0 79,735 79,225 (0.6)78,062 EBITDA Margin (%) 80bp 20.6 19.7

5.1

5.1

21.4

58.3

55,888

57,837 (0.5) 0.5 60.6 60.3 (0.5)SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

18.9

58,119

FY26F

Introduced

4,32,939

81,862

18.9

% Change

(2.0)(1.9)

1bp

5

55,569

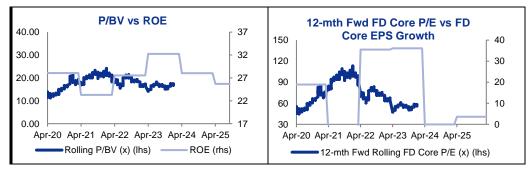
57.9

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BY THE NUMBERS



Profit	&	Loss

I

(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Total Net Revenues	291,013	344,886	364,182	395,806	432,939
Gross Profit	108,005	133,321	154,552	163,490	176,042
Operating EBITDA	48,036	62,598	78,063	79,225	81,862
Depreciation And Amortisation	(8,164)	(8,580)	(8,005)	(8,552)	(8,892)
Operating EBIT	39,873	54,018	70,058	70,673	72,970
Financial Income/(Expense)	2,846	2,420	3,755	3,941	4,253
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)					
Profit Before Tax (pre-El)	42,719	56,439	73,813	74,614	77,223
Exceptional Items	(1,157)	(489)			
Pre-tax Profit	41,562	55,950	73,813	74,614	77,223
Taxation	(11,029)	(14,935)	(18,325)	(18,464)	(19,087)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	30,532	41,015	55,488	56,149	58,137
Minority Interests	(225)	50	400	(300)	(300)
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	30,308	41,065	55,888	55,849	57,837
Recurring Net Profit	31,157	41,423	55,888	55,849	57,837
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	31,157	41,423	55,888	55,849	57,837

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
EBITDA	48,036	62,598	78,063	79,225	81,862
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	(40,321)	(3,602)	24,048	2,927	3,772
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense					
Other Operating Cashflow					
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(954)	(1,445)	(965)	(1,051)	(1,025)
Tax Paid	(11,029)	(14,935)	(18,325)	(18,464)	(19,087)
Cashflow From Operations	(4,268)	42,617	82,820	62,636	65,522
Сарех	(7,801)	(17,170)	(30,426)	(25,700)	(25,700)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	18,693	(6,277)	3,856	4,992	5,278
Cash Flow From Investing	10,892	(23,447)	(26,570)	(20,708)	(20,422)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	4,938	3,457	(5,676)		
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares					
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(17,628)	(19,361)	(30,033)	(29,864)	(30,679)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(115)	(3,128)	1,079	(682)	(682)
Cash Flow From Financing	(12,805)	(19,031)	(34,630)	(30,546)	(31,361)
Total Cash Generated	(6,181)	140	21,620	11,382	13,739
Free Cashflow To Equity	11,561	22,628	50,573	41,928	45,100
Free Cashflow To Firm	7,578	20,615	57,215	42,980	46,125

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Building Materials | India

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(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Total Cash And Equivalents	30,450	35,408	59,934	71,316	85,055
Total Debtors	38,738	46,391	35,918	37,234	38,653
Inventories	61,530	62,106	55,248	57,246	59,517
Total Other Current Assets	28,743	30,340	27,292	27,292	27,292
Total Current Assets	159,461	174,246	178,392	193,088	210,518
Fixed Assets	57,026	65,616	88,037	105,184	121,993
Total Investments	10,668	15,647	17,345	17,345	17,345
Intangible Assets	2,429	2,285	2,429	2,429	2,429
Total Other Non-Current Assets			514	557	610
Total Non-current Assets	70,123	83,548	108,324	125,515	142,376
Short-term Debt	9,440	11,275	5,440	5,440	5,440
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	61,741	67,797	71,517	77,573	84,812
Other Current Liabilities	697	742			
Total Current Liabilities	71,878	79,815	76,956	83,013	90,252
Total Long-term Debt	6,429	8,051	8,210	8,210	8,210
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities					
Total Non-current Liabilities	6,429	8,051	8,210	8,210	8,210
Total Provisions	6,109	6,211	6,465	6,694	6,969
Total Liabilities	84,415	94,077	91,632	97,917	105,431
Shareholders Equity	141,991	159,922	186,726	212,028	238,504
Minority Interests	3,875	4,537	4,475	4,775	5,075
Total Equity	145,866	164,459	191,201	216,804	243,579
Key Ratios	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Revenue Growth	34.0%	18.5%	5.6%	8.7%	9.4%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(1.1%)	30.3%	24.7%	1.5%	3.3%
Operating EBITDA Margin	16.5%	18.2%	21.4%	20.0%	18.9%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	15.20	16.77	48.25	60.12	74.44
BVPS (Rs)	148.03	166.72	194.67	221.05	248.65
Gross Interest Cover	41.79	37.40	72.56	67.22	71.19
Effective Tax Rate	26.5%	26.7%	24.8%	24.7%	24.7%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	56.0%	46.6%	53.7%	53.5%	53.0%
Accounts Receivables Days	40.63	45.05	41.25	33.73	31.99
Inventory Days	99.24	106.65	102.17	88.37	82.95
Accounts Payables Days	114.83	111.74	121.28	117.12	115.36
ROIC (%)	31.6%	39.1%	50.8%	46.4%	44.0%
	01.070				
ROCE (%)	26.1%	31.4%	36.1%	32.6%	30.19

	20.170	01.470		02.070	00.170
Return On Average Assets	13.3%	16.0%	19.0%	17.2%	16.0%
Key Drivers					
	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Domestic decorative revenue growth	Mar-22A 36.0%	Mar-23A 19.4%	Mar-24F 5.5%	Mar-25F 8.5%	Mar-26F 9.4%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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