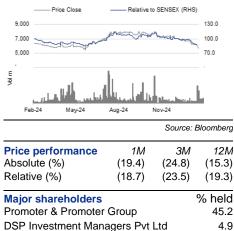
### India

ADD (previously REDUCE)

Consensus ratings*: Buy 6	Hold 3	Sell 2
Current price:		Rs5,395
Target price:		Rs6,727
Previous target:		Rs4,971
Up/downside:		24.7%
InCred Research / Consensus:		-10.2%
Reuters:	ļ	ATLP.NS
Bloomberg:		ATLP IN
Market cap:	US	\$1,827m
	Rs1	58,835m
Average daily turnover:	ι	JS\$5.2m
	R	s450.9m
Current shares o/s:		29.6m
Free float: *Source: Bloomberg		54.8%



DSP Investment Managers Pvt Ltd LIC India

5.4

### Atul Ltd

### Negatives priced in; upgrade to ADD

- Atul is expected to post 17% EPA CAGR over FY25-27F supported by the recovery in agrochemicals, epoxy resins, and favourable raw material costs.
- The company's revenue is forecasted to grow at a 15% CAGR over FY25F-27F, with a potential surprise on the margin front.
- The stock is undervalued relatively & trading at historical average multiple on P/BV & P/E basis. We expect it to rerate as growth returns. Upgrade to ADD.

### Underperformance led by EPS decline, which is over, in our view

Like most chemical companies, Atul has significantly underperformed the index over the past three years due to overly bullish earnings estimates and repeated disappointments. While consensus estimates remain aggressive, the 35% correction from its recent peak suggests the market has already priced in these concerns. We expect a recovery in earnings, although not to the extent of consensus estimates. Our projections indicate an EPS of Rs162 for FY25F, growing to Rs224 by FY27F.

#### Recovery in agrochemicals is the key tailwind

Multiple global agrochemical companies indicate that channel destocking is largely over, and we may be entering the early phase of a restocking cycle. At the same time, we are witnessing an uptick in epoxy resin prices and export volume from India, which could serve as additional tailwinds for the company. Furthermore, falling epichlorohydrin or ECH prices (due to oversupply) and a potential decline in caustic soda prices are likely to provide cost benefits. While we do not expect margins to recover to their previous cyclical peaks, three years of sub-par growth may be compensated over the next three years. This suggests that EPS growth could return to or even exceed FY20 levels.

#### Growth to come in epoxy resins as well as dyes

The recovery in the agrochemicals market, especially after channel destocking, is a major catalyst for growth. The rise in epoxy resin prices, increased exports from India, and favourable raw material cost reductions (due to falling ECH and bisphenol A prices) will further boost earnings. Additionally, there are signs of a recovery in the dyes and pigments segment, with rising prices of key chemicals like diamino diphenyl sulfone.

### We value the stock at 30x FY27F EPS; upgrade to ADD from REDUCE

Atul's revenue is expected to grow at a 15% CAGR over FY25F-27F, after a period of slower growth. The company's gross margin and EPS are likely to surprise positively due to favourable tailwinds in key segments. The stock is currently undervalued compared to its historical average, making it an attractive investment opportunity. We have set a higher target price of Rs6,727 (Rs4,971 earlier). Downside risk: Supply chain bottlenecks leading to a rise in raw material prices, which pose a risk to our earnings estimates and target price.

Financial Summary	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue (Rsm)	54,275	47,257	55,763	64,685	73,741
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	7,749	6,367	9,189	10,989	12,208
Net Profit (Rsm)	5,028	3,144	4,829	6,014	6,655
Core EPS (Rs)	169.4	105.9	162.7	202.6	224.2
Core EPS Growth	(15.8%)	(37.5%)	53.6%	24.5%	10.7%
FD Core P/E (x)	31.85	50.93	33.16	26.63	24.06
DPS (Rs)	20.3	12.7	19.5	24.3	26.9
Dividend Yield	0.38%	0.24%	0.36%	0.45%	0.50%
EV/EBITDA (x)	19.58	23.29	16.06	13.25	11.70
P/FCFE (x)	93.88	94.72	109.03	52.34	41.17
Net Gearing	(4.1%)	(5.2%)	(6.0%)	(8.7%)	(12.2%)
P/BV (x)	3.43	3.13	2.90	2.65	2.42
ROE	11.1%	6.4%	9.1%	10.4%	10.5%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			(0.37%)		
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

**Research Analyst(s)** 



Satish KUMAR T (91) 22 4161 1562 E satish.kumar@incredresearch.com Abbas PUNJANI T (91) 22 4161 1598 E abbas.punjani@incredresearch.com

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

### Negatives priced in; upgrade to ADD

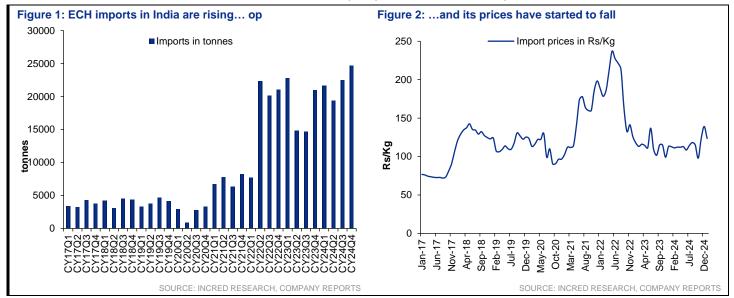
Like most chemical companies, Atul has significantly underperformed the index over the past three years due to overly bullish earnings estimates and repeated disappointments. While consensus estimates remain aggressive, the 40% correction from its recent peak suggests the market has already priced in these concerns. We expect an earnings recovery, although not to the extent of consensus estimates. Our projections indicate an EPS of Rs162 for FY25F, growing to Rs225 over the next few years. We value the stock at 30x FY27F EPS, arriving at a higher target price of Rs6,727.

### Agrochemicals recovery is the key tailwind

Multiple global agrochemical companies indicate that channel destocking is largely over, and we may be entering the early phase of a restocking cycle. At the same time, we are witnessing an uptick in epoxy resin prices and export volume from India, which could serve as additional tailwinds for the company. Furthermore, falling ECH prices (due to oversupply) and a potential decline in caustic soda prices are likely to provide cost benefits. While we do not expect margins to recover to their previous cyclical peaks, three years of sub-par growth may be compensated over the next three years. This suggests that EPS growth could return to or even exceed FY20 levels.

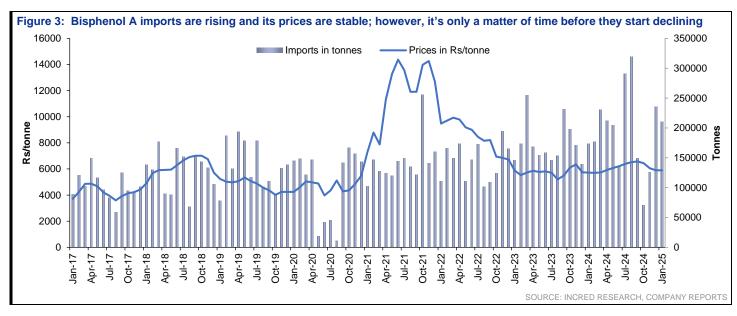
## Excess capacity in China and the fall in the yuan are driving down export prices of key raw materials such as epichlorohydrin (ECH) and bisphenol A $\gg$

It is no secret that China has huge overcapacity in most bulk chemicals and ECH as well as bisphenol A are no different. The rise in Indian imports is combined with the fall in import prices of ECH and bisphenol A.

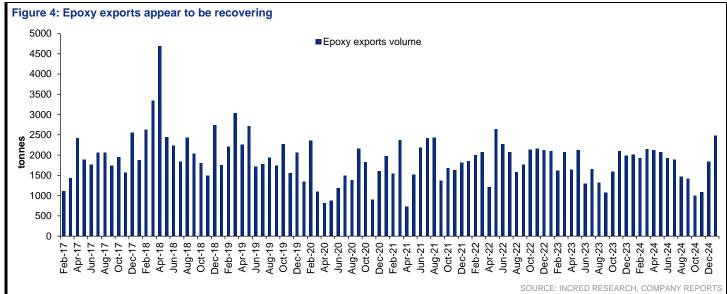


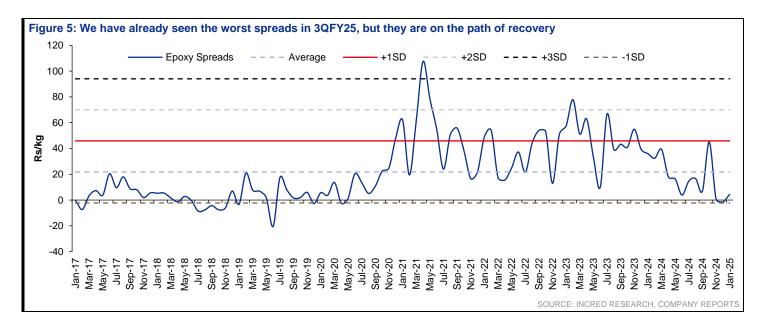
### **InCred** Equities

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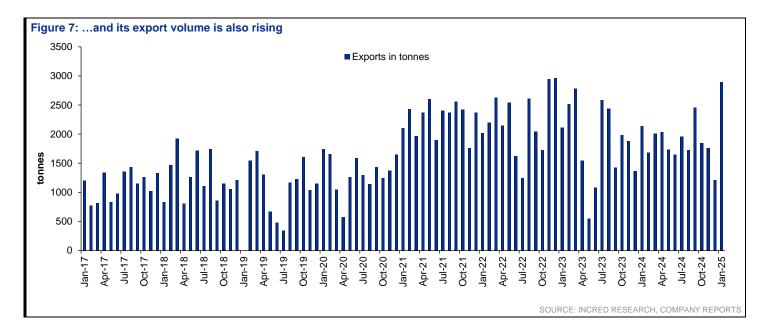
# At the same time, revival in epoxy demand appears to be in place, which is leading to higher exports and higher spreads over raw material >



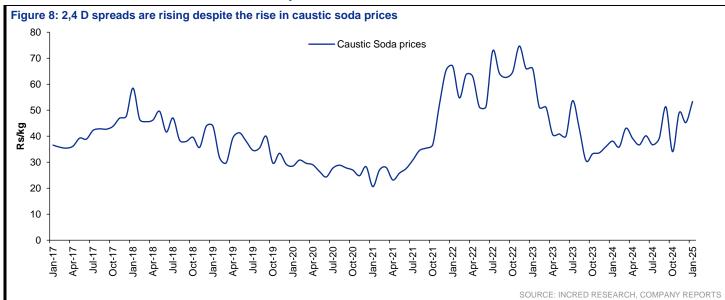


### Cyclical stocking of 2,4-D is expected to drive exports higher, and its prices are also showing signs of a recovery **>**

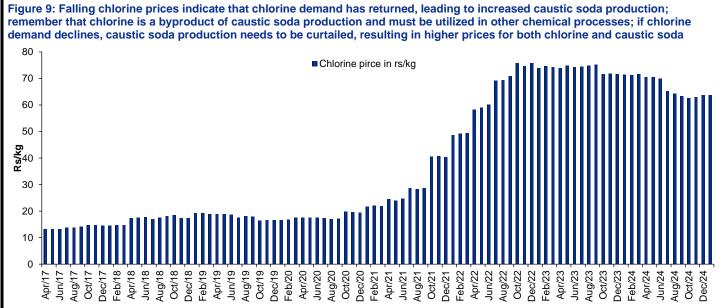




### Remember 2,4 D spreads are rising despite the rise in caustic soda prices **>**



# However, please note that chlorine prices are falling, indicating the scarcity of chlorine is going away; this, in turn, means that more caustic soda is being produced and hence, a fall in caustic soda prices is imminent $\rightarrow$



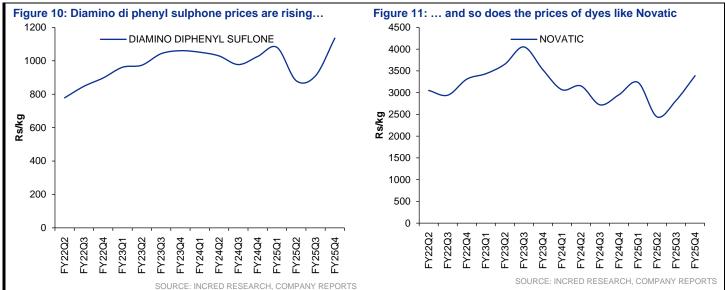
SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

### Dyes and pigments may also be on the verge of a recovery>

Diamino diphenyl sulfone (Dapsone, DDS) price recovery indicates that a recovery in pigment prices is imminent.

- 1. **Pharmaceutical use -** Leprosy Treatment: It is primarily used as an antibiotic for treating leprosy (Hansen's disease) as a part of multi-drug therapy (MDT). Dermatology: Used to treat dermatitis herpetiformis, a skin condition associated with celiac disease. Pneumocystis Pneumonia (PCP): Occasionally used as a prophylactic in HIV/AIDS patients.
- 2. **Polymer industry high-performance polymers**: DDS is used as a curing agent in the production of epoxy resins and polyimides for aerospace, electronics, and high-temperature applications.
- 3. **Electronics industry** Used in circuit boards and semiconductors due to its role in producing heat-resistant polymers.

### **InCred** Equities

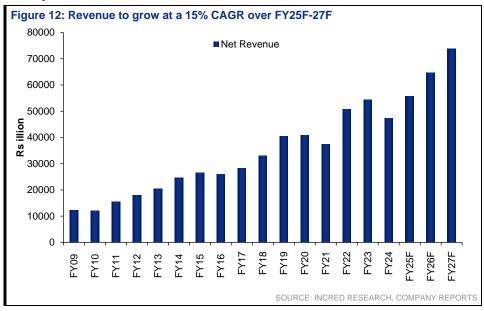


#### 4. Dye & pigment industry - Serves as an intermediate in dye manufacturing.

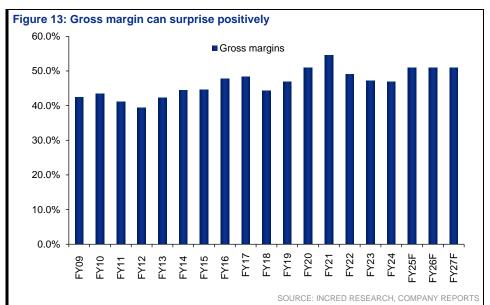
### **Earnings and valuation**

### Revenue growth to return to 15% CAGR over FY25F-27F ➤

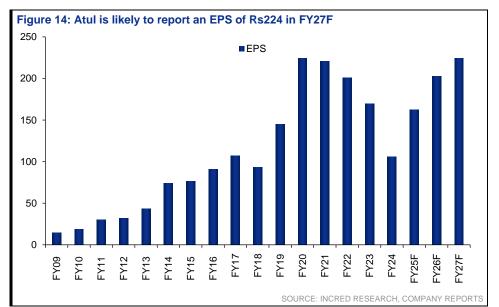
Over the long run, Atul's revenue is expected to grow at a 10% CAGR. However, lower global demand from agrochemical, textile, and industrial adhesive makers led to a revenue growth of only 7% over FY19-25F. We expect the reversion to mean level to start from FY26F and the revenue growth trajectory to back to 10% level by FY27F.



### While we estimate the gross margin to be around 51%; however, given the tailwinds, it can surprise positively >



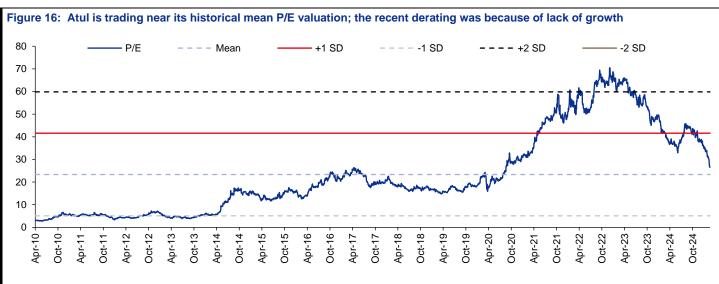
### EPS is likely to grow at an 18% CAGR over FY25F-27F>



### **InCred** Equities

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#### Figure 15: On P/BV basis, Atul is trading below its historical average 8 P/BV - +1 SD – – – – -1 SD - - - - +2 SD -2 SD ---- Mean 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 Apr-10 -Oct-10 Apr-12 -Oct-12 Apr-13 Oct-13 Apr-14 -Oct-15 Apr-16 -Oct-16 Apr-18 -Oct-18 Apr-19 Oct-19 Oct-14 Apr-15 Apr-17 Oct-17 Apr-20 Oct-20 Apr-22 Oct-22 Apr-23 Oct-24 Apr-11 Oct-23 Apr-24 Oct-11 Apr-21 Oct-21



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

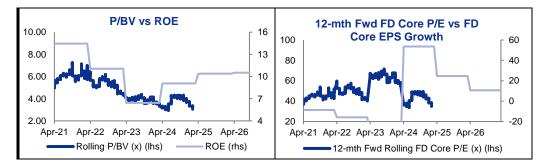
SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

### We value the stock at 30x FY27F EPS to arrive at a higher target price of Rs6,727 ➤

Figure 17: We value the stock at 30x FY27F EP 6,727	S to arrive at higher target price of Rs
Target price calculation	
FY26F EPS (Rs)	202.6
FY27F EPS (Rs)	224.2
P/E (x)	30.0
One-year forward EPS (Rs)	224.2
One-year forward target price (Rs)	6,727
	SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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### **BY THE NUMBERS**



(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Net Revenues	54,275	47,257	55,763	64,685	73,741
Gross Profit	25,635	22,151	28,439	32,989	37,608
Operating EBITDA	7,749	6,367	9,189	10,989	12,208
Depreciation And Amortisation	(1,978)	(2,429)	(3,075)	(3,436)	(3,798)
Operating EBIT	5,770	3,938	6,114	7,553	8,410
Financial Income/(Expense)	(79)	(111)	(240)	(95)	(95)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	1,149	582	582	582	582
Profit Before Tax (pre-El)	6,840	4,409	6,456	8,040	8,897
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	6,840	4,409	6,456	8,040	8,897
Taxation	(1,812)	(1,265)	(1,627)	(2,026)	(2,242
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	5,028	3,144	4,829	6,014	6,655
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	5,028	3,144	4,829	6,014	6,655
Recurring Net Profit	5,028	3,144	4,829	6,014	6,655
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	5,028	3,144	4,829	6,014	6,65

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
EBITDA	7,749	6,367	9,189	10,989	12,208
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	271	1,110	(1,739)	(1,824)	(1,851)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	(205)	(408)			
Other Operating Cashflow	1,266	790	693	822	677
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(79)	(111)	(240)	(95)	(95)
Tax Paid	(1,934)	(1,073)	(1,627)	(2,026)	(2,242)
Cashflow From Operations	7,067	6,675	6,276	7,866	8,697
Capex	(8,747)	(5,039)	(4,808)	(4,808)	(4,808)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries	8	4			
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments	3,850	(1,922)			
Other Investing Cashflow	196	125			
Cash Flow From Investing	(4,694)	(6,832)	(4,808)	(4,808)	(4,808)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	(668)	1,848			
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares					
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(961)	(738)	(695)	(866)	(958)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(946)	(735)	(111)	(240)	(95)
Cash Flow From Financing	(2,575)	375	(806)	(1,106)	(1,053)
Total Cash Generated	(202)	218	662	1,953	2,836
Free Cashflow To Equity	1,706	1,691	1,469	3,059	3,889
Free Cashflow To Firm	2,452	(47)	1,709	3,154	3,984

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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### BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

(Rsmn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Cash And Equivalents	2,416	4,987	5,649	7,602	10,438
Total Debtors	8.446	9.270	10.939	12.689	14,466
Inventories	7,894	6,183	7,295	8,463	9,648
Total Other Current Assets	2,154	2,316	2,316	2,316	2,316
Total Current Assets	20,910	22,756	26,200	31,071	36,868
Fixed Assets	27,702	30,406	32,138	33,509	34,519
Total Investments	6,946	9,689	9,689	9,689	9,689
Intangible Assets	291	291	291	291	291
Total Other Non-Current Assets	1,831	1,621	1,621	1,621	1,621
Total Non-current Assets	36,770	42,007	43,739	45,110	46,120
Short-term Debt	183	226	226	226	226
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	5,385	5,793	6,836	7,930	9,040
Other Current Liabilities	2,835	2,866	2,866	2,866	2,866
Total Current Liabilities	8,402	8,884	9,927	11,021	12,131
Total Long-term Debt	287	2,093	2,093	2,093	2,093
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	133	99	99	99	99
Total Non-current Liabilities	420	2,192	2,192	2,192	2,192
Total Provisions	1,663	2,053	2,053	2,053	2,053
Total Liabilities	10,486	13,129	14,172	15,265	16,376
Shareholders Equity	46,714	51,143	55,277	60,425	66,122
Minority Interests	480	491	491	491	491
Total Equity	47,194	51,634	55,768	60,915	66,612
Key Ratios	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue Growth	6.8%	(12.9%)	18.0%	16.0%	14.0%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(15.0%)	(17.8%)	44.3%	19.6%	14.0%
Operating EBITDA Growth Operating EBITDA Margin	14.3%	13.5%	16.5%	17.0%	16.6%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	65.57	89.91	112.23	178.03	273.58
	05.57	09.91	112.23		
· · · ·	1 572 02	1 722 16	1 962 44	2 025 88	
BVPS (Rs)	1,573.92	1,723.16	1,862.44	2,035.88	, -
BVPS (Rs) Gross Interest Cover	73.04	35.54	25.48	79.51	88.53
BVPS (Rs) Gross Interest Cover Effective Tax Rate	73.04 26.5%	35.54 28.7%	25.48 25.2%	79.51 25.2%	88.53 25.2%
BVPS (Rs) Gross Interest Cover Effective Tax Rate Net Dividend Payout Ratio	73.04 26.5% 12.0%	35.54 28.7% 12.0%	25.48 25.2% 12.0%	79.51 25.2% 12.0%	88.53 25.2% 12.0%
BVPS (Rs) Gross Interest Cover Effective Tax Rate Net Dividend Payout Ratio Accounts Receivables Days	73.04 26.5% 12.0% 61.66	35.54 28.7% 12.0% 68.42	25.48 25.2% 12.0% 66.14	79.51 25.2% 12.0% 66.66	88.53 25.2% 12.0% 67.21
BVPS (Rs) Gross Interest Cover Effective Tax Rate Net Dividend Payout Ratio Accounts Receivables Days Inventory Days	73.04 26.5% 12.0% 61.66 105.36	35.54 28.7% 12.0% 68.42 102.32	25.48 25.2% 12.0% 66.14 90.02	79.51 25.2% 12.0% 66.66 90.73	88.53 25.2% 12.0% 67.21 91.47
BVPS (Rs) Gross Interest Cover Effective Tax Rate Net Dividend Payout Ratio Accounts Receivables Days Inventory Days Accounts Payables Days	73.04 26.5% 12.0% 61.66 105.36 74.76	35.54 28.7% 12.0% 68.42 102.32 81.26	25.48 25.2% 12.0% 66.14 90.02 84.35	79.51 25.2% 12.0% 66.66 90.73 85.02	88.53 25.2% 12.0% 67.21 91.47 85.71
BVPS (Rs) Gross Interest Cover Effective Tax Rate Net Dividend Payout Ratio Accounts Receivables Days Inventory Days	73.04 26.5% 12.0% 61.66 105.36	35.54 28.7% 12.0% 68.42 102.32	25.48 25.2% 12.0% 66.14 90.02	79.51 25.2% 12.0% 66.66 90.73	2,227.82 88.53 25.2% 12.0% 67.21 91.47 85.71 13.1% 12.4%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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### InCred Research Services Private Limited **Research Analyst SEBI Registration Number: INH000011024** Registered Office: Unit No 1203, 12th Floor, B Wing, The Capital, C-70, G Block, BKC, Bandra (E), Mumbai – 400051 Phone: +91-22-6844-6100 Corporate Office: 05th floor, Laxmi Towers, Plot No. C-25, G Block, Bandra - Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051 Phone: +91-22-4161-1500 Name of the Compliance Officer: Mr. Yogesh Kadam Email ID: compliance@incredresearch.com, Phone No: +91-22-41611539 For any queries or grievances, you may contact the Grievance Officer. Name of the Grievance Officer: Mr. Rajarshi Maitra Phone no. +91-022-41611546 Email ID: rajarshi.maitra@incredresearch.com

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Chemicals - Overall ∣ India Atul Ltd ∣ February 18, 2025

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.
	return 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 be 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.