



India

REDUCE (previously ADD)

Consensus ratings\*: Buy 19 Hold 5 Sell 5

Current price:	Rs882
Target price:	Rs853
Previous target:	Rs380
Up/downside:	-3.3%
InCred Research / Consensus:	-12.2%
Reuters:	JNSP.NS
Bloomberg:	JSP IN
Market cap:	US\$10,535m
	Rs899,412m
Average daily turnover:	US\$22.9m
	Rs1955.6m
Current shares o/s:	1,020.0m
Free float:	39.6%

\*Source: Bloomberg



Source: Bloomberg

Price performance	1M	3M	12M
Absolute (%)	(4.5)	(4.6)	(2.7)
Relative (%)	(6.5)	(7.9)	(9.4)

Major shareholders	% held
Promoter and Promoter Group	61.2
Kotak MF	2.8
HDFC MF	2.4

Research Analyst(s)



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# Jindal Steel and Power

## Huge capex in a slowing world

- Jindal Steel and Power’s aggressive Rs181bn capex plan looks risky amid weak global steel demand, oversupply, and rising Chinese competition.
- Policy support is possible, but drastic measures like MIP are unlikely, given the relatively stable banking sector.
- With high valuations, rising leverage, and overly optimistic consensus estimates, we downgrade our rating on the stock to REDUCE (ADD earlier).

### Aggressive capex in a weak environment

Jindal Steel and Power or JSPL’s huge capex plan comes at a risky time—amid weakening global demand, an oversupplied flat steel market, intense competition from China, and currency headwinds. JSPL is executing a large capital expenditure program (~Rs181bn mostly in flat steel), despite subdued global steel demand. India’s flat steel capacity already exceeds domestic demand, and capacity utilization in this segment is heavily reliant on exports. Meanwhile, hopes of a sustained decline in China’s steel production have consistently proven to be illusory. It’s important to remember that Chinese producers operate with little regard for the cost of capital, continuing their production even without generating economic returns. This behaviour helps explain why companies like Angang and Maanshan have delivered negligible shareholder returns over the past 15–17 years. When industrial behaviour is this predictable, and the yuan is falling, Indian exporters may face tough competition from China. India may also be exposed to increased imports.

### Protection is on the cards but drastic steps like MIP are unlikely

While policy support for India’s steel industry remains likely, we do not expect drastic measures such as a Minimum Import Price (MIP), like that in 2016. It’s important to recall that the MIP was imposed in 2016 primarily to protect the banking sector, not just the steel industry. At that time, steel was being imported into India at just US\$265/t—so low that even covering the contribution margin was unviable for Indian producers, let alone servicing or repaying debt. Back then, around 30% of the banking system’s net worth was at risk due to exposure to the struggling steel sector. In contrast, today’s scenario is far less precarious: even in a worst case—if all steel sector loans were to turn bad in 2025, only about 11% of the banking system’s net worth would be impacted. So, while the steel industry was under real distress in 2016, it was the fragility of the banking system that prompted the imposition of MIP. That urgency simply doesn’t exist today. However, in the current era of global protectionism, some form of policy support for the steel industry remains probable, especially given its strategic importance to the economy.

### Valuation & consensus estimates too high; downgrade to REDUCE

We value JSPL at 8x EV/ EBITDA to arrive at our target price of Rs853. 8x is the last 15 years’ average EBITDA; however, remember now the balance sheet is leveraging and hence, a derating is also on the cards. Consensus earnings estimates are too high, and they will be cut. We downgrade our rating on JSPL to REDUCE (ADD earlier).

Financial Summary	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue (Rsm)	527,112	500,268	497,650	540,332	571,162
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	99,349	102,258	94,942	117,161	118,680
Net Profit (Rsm)	31,512	59,636	28,212	53,690	49,725
Core EPS (Rs)	41.2	59.5	36.2	53.6	49.6
Core EPS Growth	(51.8%)	44.5%	(39.2%)	48.0%	(7.4%)
FD Core P/E (x)	28.05	14.82	31.33	16.46	17.77
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)	9.63	9.78	11.01	9.17	9.10
P/FCFE (x)	35.57	106.84	(40.16)	84.00	42.70
Net Gearing	17.8%	25.0%	33.0%	35.1%	33.0%
P/BV (x)	2.28	1.99	1.87	1.68	1.54
ROE	11.1%	14.4%	7.9%	10.8%	9.0%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates					
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

## Huge capex in a slowing world is a recipe for disaster

Global steel demand is moderating, particularly from China. Construction, real estate, and manufacturing sectors remain sluggish across several regions. Overcapacity risks are rising, leading to margin compression. In such an overbuilt, low-demand environment, the return on capital employed (RoCE) tends to decline sharply. At the same time, volatile input costs—such as iron ore and coking coal—combined with weak steel pricing, make breakeven levels harder to sustain. Historically, aggressive steel capacity expansion during downcycles has resulted in financial stress. Despite this backdrop, JSPL is moving ahead with major expansions in Odisha and Angul, with plans to scale up steel capacity significantly. The company has already incurred capex of approximately Rs155bn in FY25, with further investments lined up in the coming years. As a result, the debt level is expected to rise. While India has imposed safeguard duties to protect the domestic industry, rising Chinese steel exports will continue to pose a significant overhang for the Indian steel sector.

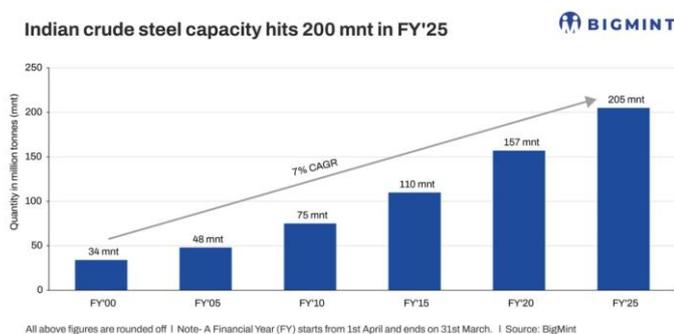
## Global demand is slowing and Indian steel capacity is expanding

### All Indian steel companies are expanding their capacity ➤

1. JSW Steel: Doubling its capacity to ~50mtpa by FY30F (from ~28mtpa).
2. Jindal Steel and Power (JSPL): To raise capacity from ~9mtpa to ~16mtpa by FY30F.
3. Tata Steel: India capacity to rise from ~21mtpa to 40mtpa (incl. Kalinganagar and NINL acquisitions). Capex is ongoing, but at a slower pace now post Europe pain. Risks: Iron ore is captive; however, post FY30, they will have to bid for iron ore mines which will raise the steel production cost. Europe drag risk remains.
4. ArcelorMittal-Nippon JV: It has an aggressive plan to raise the capacity from 9 mtpa to 30mtpa over a decade.
5. SAIL: As it is a state-owned company, there is more conservative expansion.

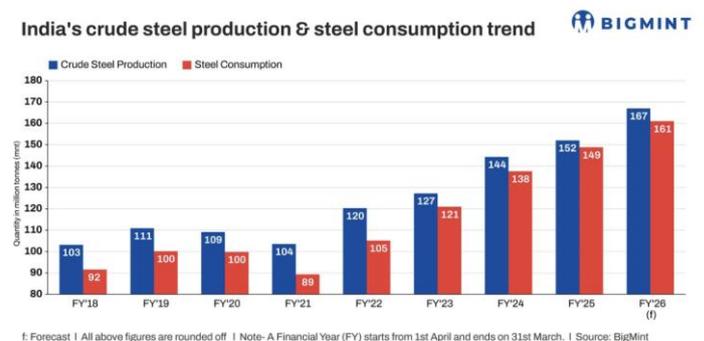
## Indian steel demand is increasing; however, huge expansion will lead to a big demand-supply gap ➤

Figure 1: Indian steel capacity has already breached 200mt and there are further multiple expansions in the pipeline



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

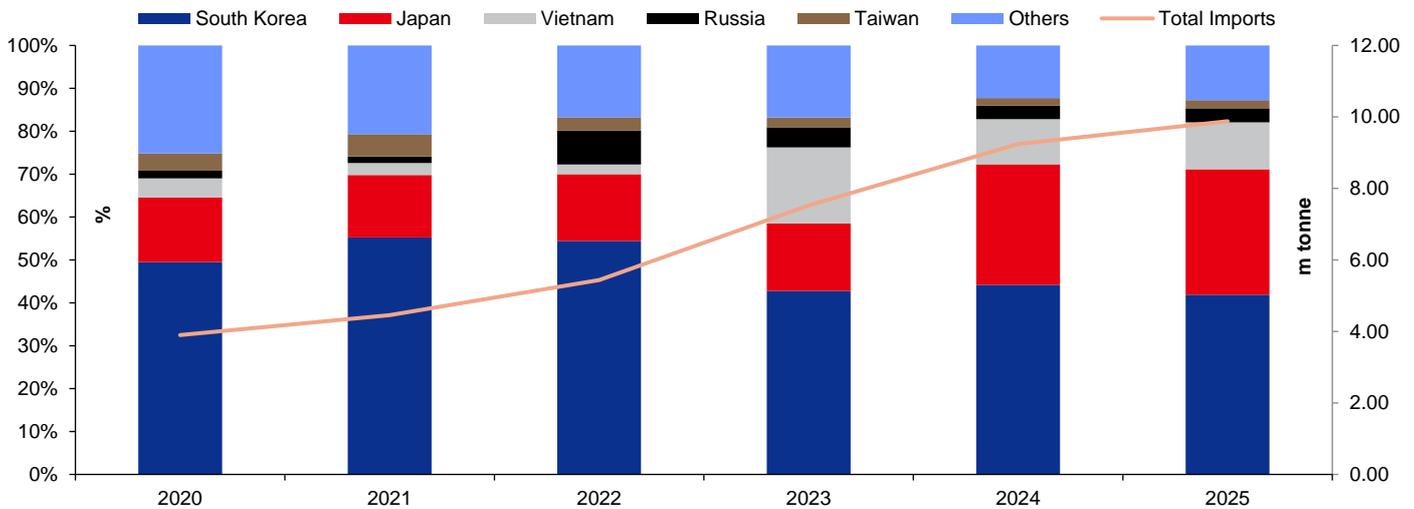
Figure 2: Indian steel demand has always lagged steel production and for the past few years we have been a net exporting country



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

**Global oversupply is a known fact and Indian steel imports are also increasing ➤**

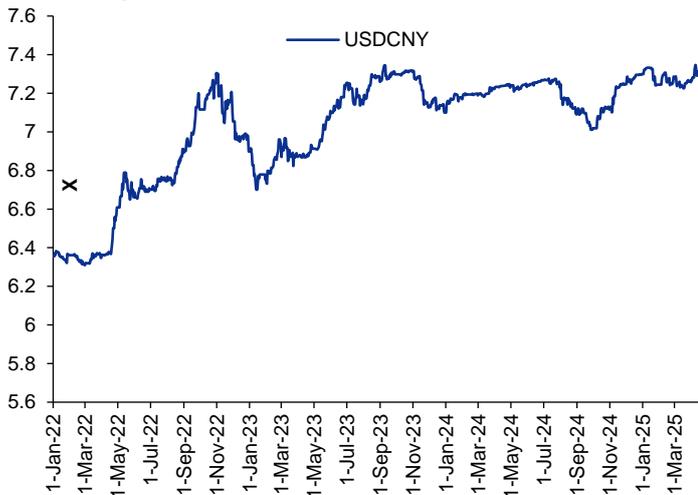
**Figure 3: China hasn't been a primary exporter to the Indian market; however, it could become one in 2025F**



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

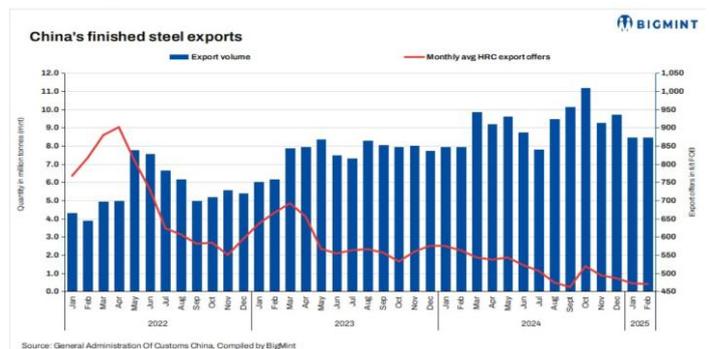
**China's competitiveness is increasing as its yuan has corrected vis-à-vis the US dollar ➤**

**Figure 4: CNY is depreciating vis-à-vis USD, which is making China's exports even more attractive**



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

**Figure 5: China's steel export volume is increasing, and prices are falling YoY**

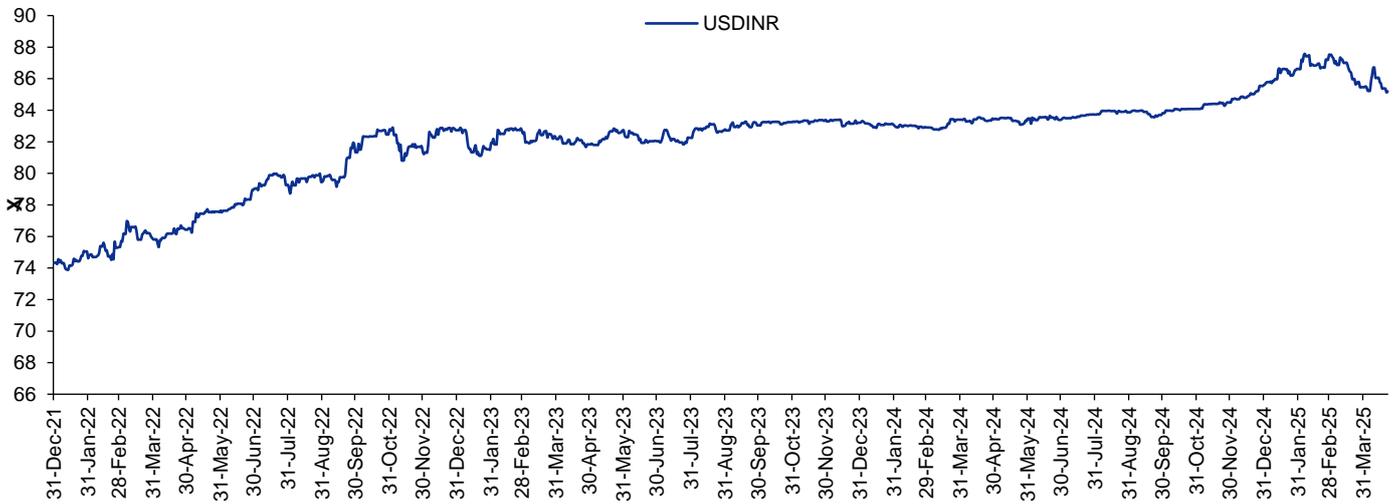


SOURCE: GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS CHINA, COMPILED BY BIGMINT

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

### An appreciating Indian rupee against the US dollar is also not in favour of Indian steel companies ▶

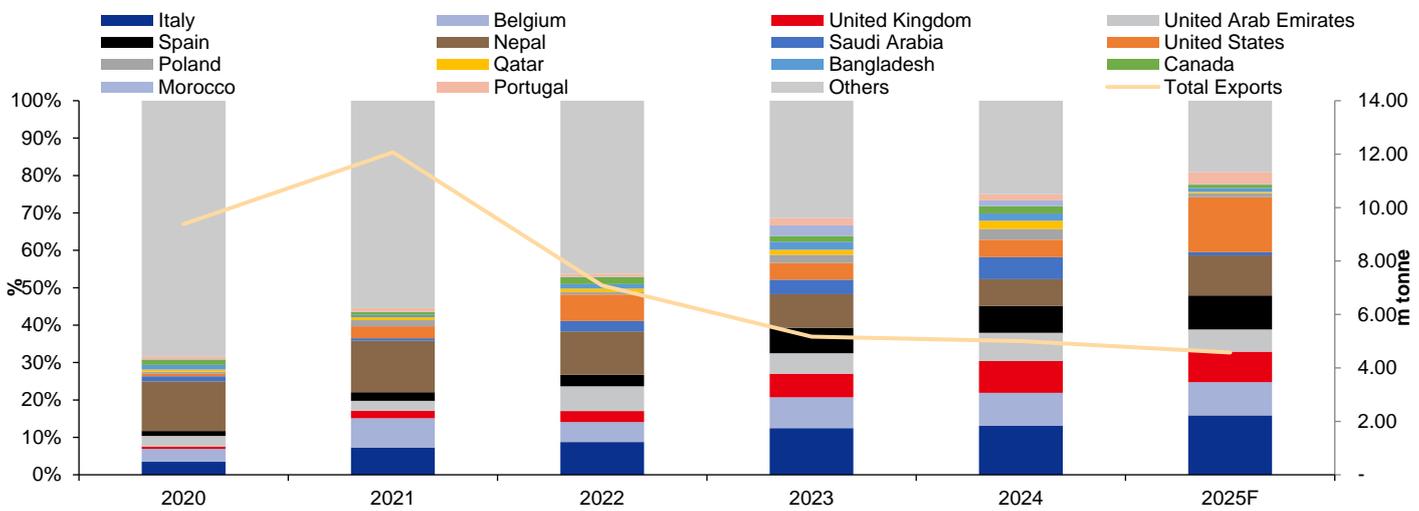
**Figure 6: Due to Trump-era policies, the US dollar or USD is weakening, but the Chinese yuan (CNY) is depreciating even further against the USD; at the same time, the Indian rupee (INR) is appreciating against both the USD and the CNY; this trend is negative for Indian steel companies, as it makes imports cheaper and Chinese steel exports more competitive in the global market**



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

### Europe will bounce back for sure; however, Indian exports in Europe will face tough competition from China ▶

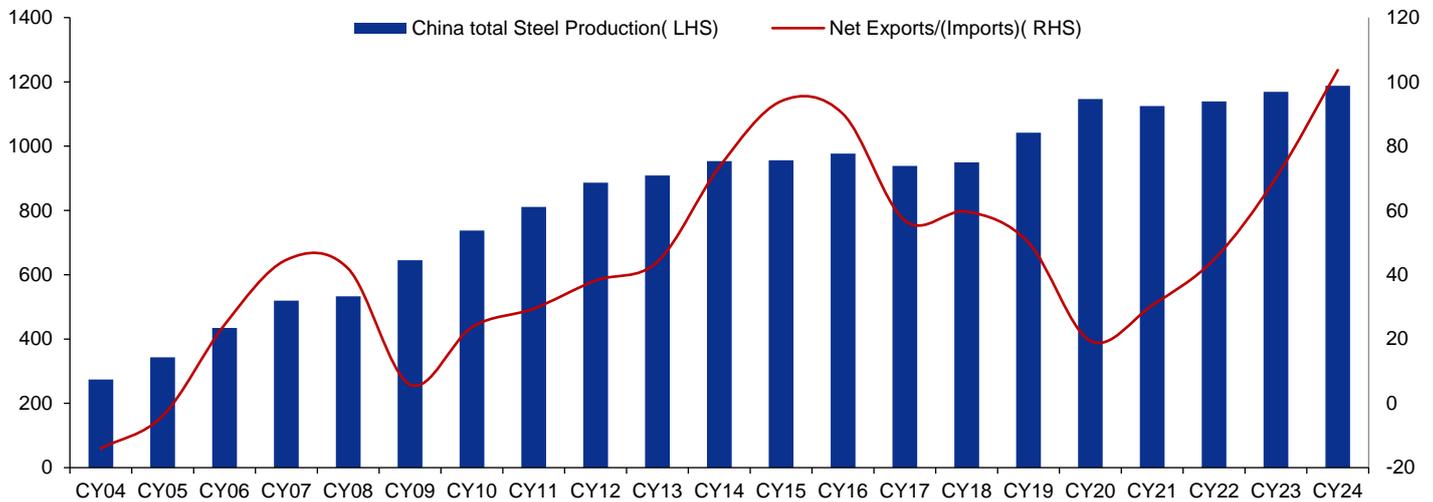
**Figure 7: Indian companies took great advantage of the supply chain crisis and China's zero-COVID policy during 2021–2022; in 2021, Indian exports reached an all-time high of 12mt; however, as China reopened, its exports increased, leading to a loss of market share for India**



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

**Will China cut its steel capacity? We find this debate largely irrelevant—despite the noise, there has been no significant decline in China’s steel production over the past 20 years ➤**

**Figure 8: China's steel exports reached an all-time high in 2024, and steel production also hit record levels in CY24; this casts serious doubts on the prevailing narrative around steel capacity cuts in China; we reiterate that China does not adhere to conventional notions of cost of capital; any assumption that rational economic theory applies uniformly in China is fundamentally flawed; Chinese producers have historically sold steel at negative gross margin — and they can do so again**

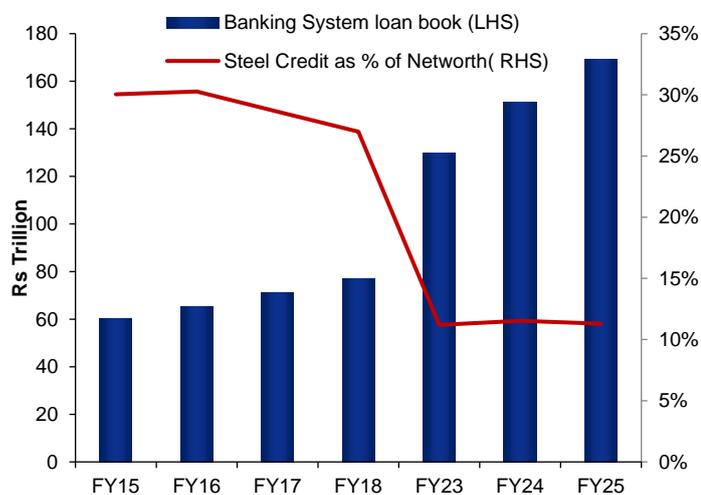


SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS, BLOOMBERG

**Can India protect its steel industry? Yes, it will but don't expect drastic measures like MIP ➤**

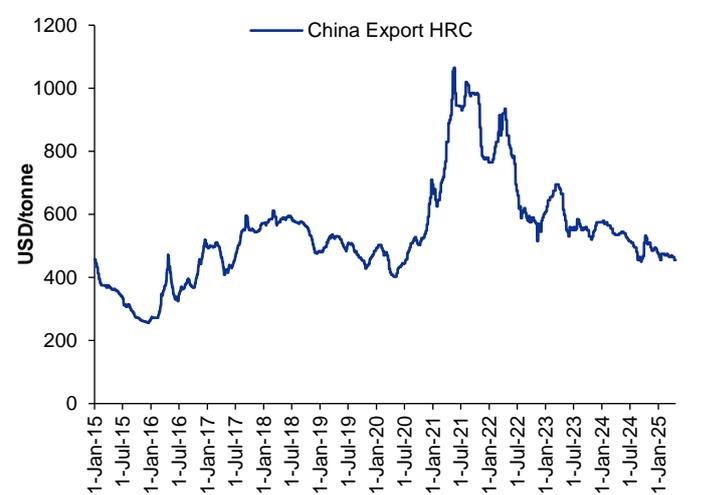
While there is currently no urgent need for immediate intervention, it is evident that the Indian government is committed to supporting and protecting its steel sector. Policy measures such as safeguard duties and trade remedies reflect a proactive stance aimed at preserving the long-term competitiveness and resilience of domestic producers. It is worth recalling that a Minimum Import Price (MIP) was imposed in 2016 when the Indian steel industry was incurring significant losses—posing a potential threat to the viability of the Indian banking sector. At that time, China was exporting steel at prices below the cost of key raw materials, prompting urgent protectionist measures.

**Figure 9: As seen in the graph below, protecting the steel industry by imposing the MIP was necessary for the Indian government in 2016; otherwise, the Indian banking system could have faced bankruptcy**



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

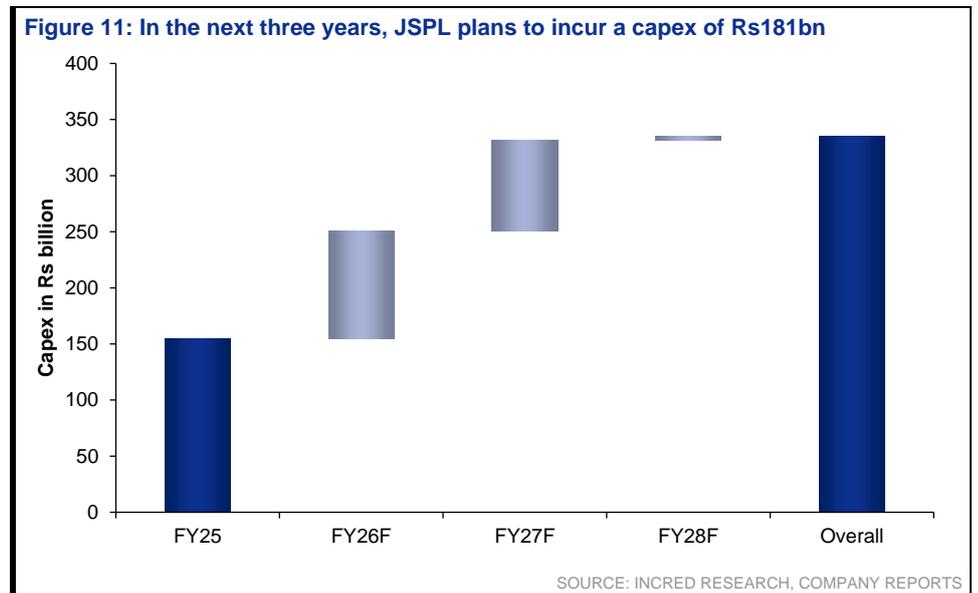
**Figure 10: Steel was being imported in India at US\$265/t, which would have not covered even the cost of raw materials**



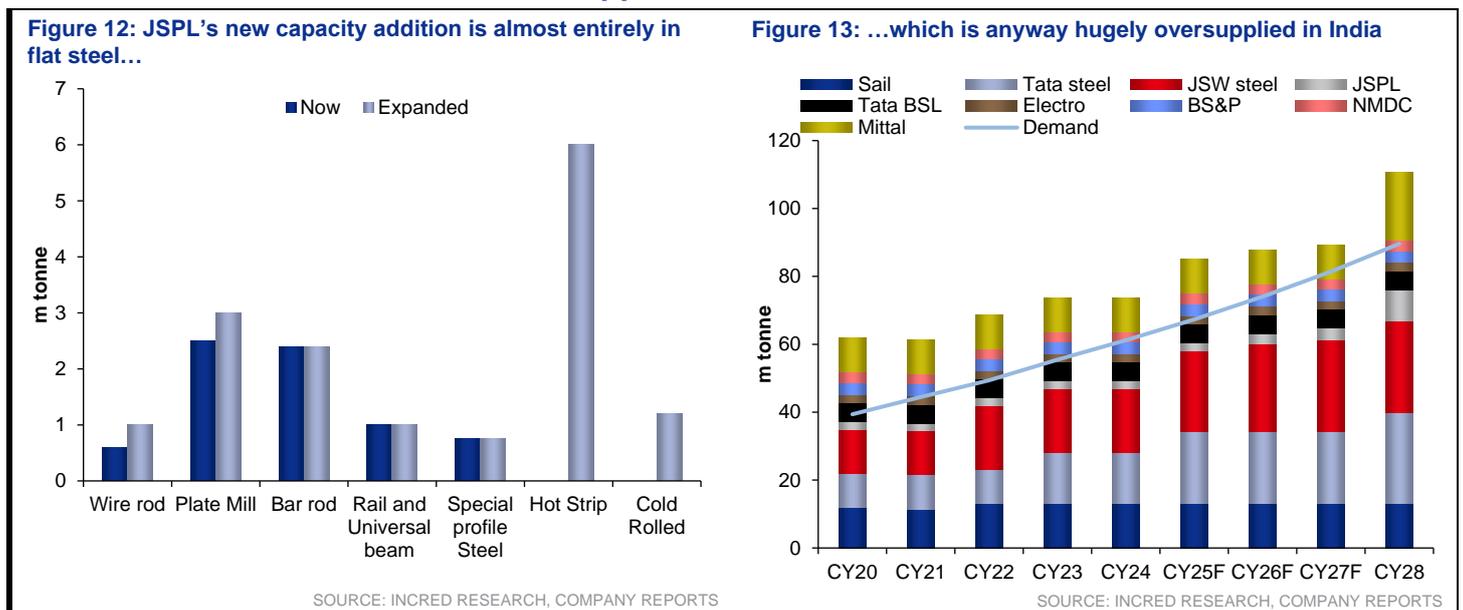
SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

## JSPL's balance sheet will leverage in an uncertain environment

Company is incurring a massive capex ➤



Like most other players, JSPL is expanding its capacity in oversupplied flat steel ➤



Remember that India is—and is likely to remain—a long steel consumption-driven market ➤

Between 2020 and 2024, Indian steel consumption grew at a CAGR of 12.61%. However, flat steel grew at a slower pace of 11.65%, while long steel grew at a CAGR of 13.5%.

Figure 14: Indian steel market is primarily long steel-driven

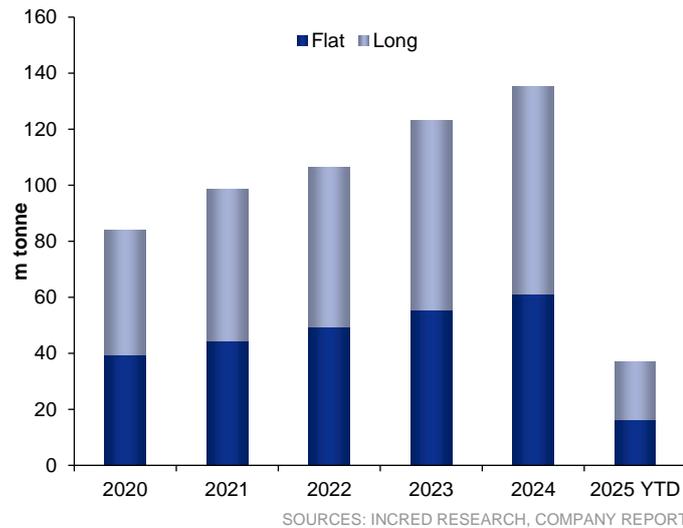
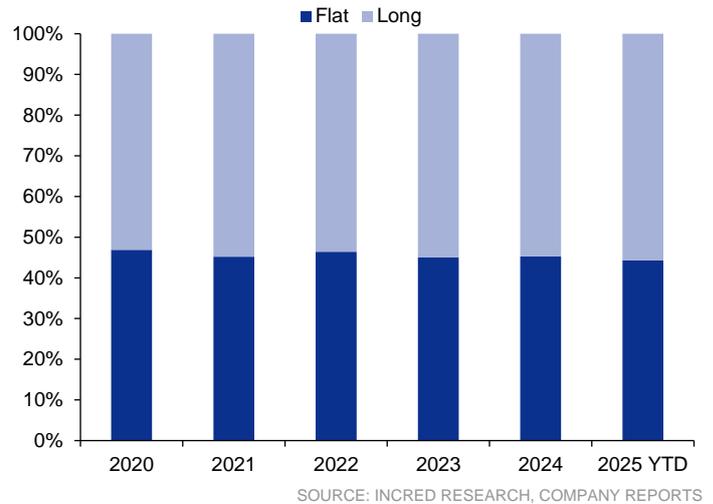


Figure 15: Flat steel consumption accounts for around 45% of overall steel consumption

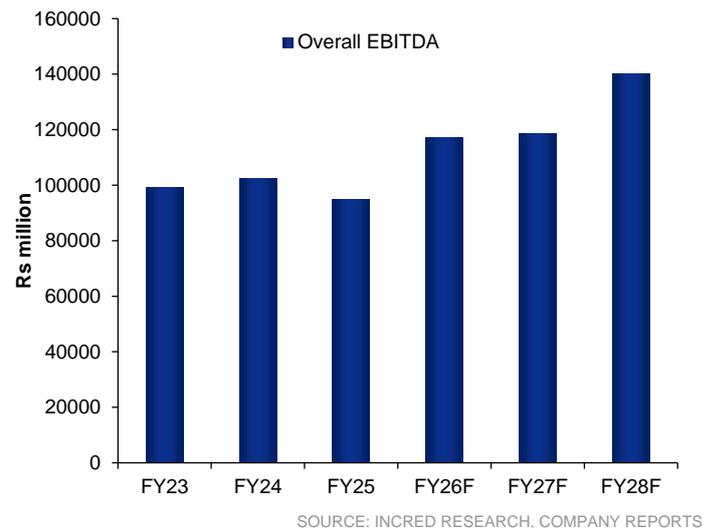


We expect JSPL to post below-consensus EBITDA growth ▶

Figure 16: Consensus is projecting Rs134bn EBITDA in FY26F

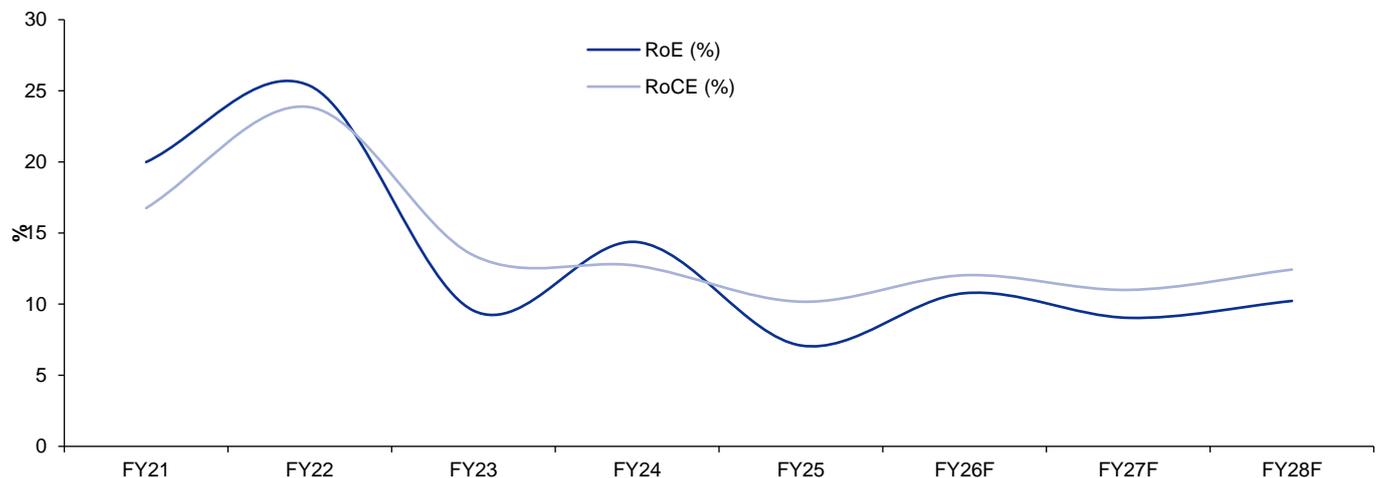
12 Months Ending	FY 2025 Act	FY 2025 Est	FY 2026 Est	FY 2027 Est	FY 2028 Est
11) EPS, Adj+	27.830	42.028	69.301	91.290	79.245
12) EPS, GAAP	27.830	42.594	67.736	90.943	79.245
13) Revenue	497.650B	496.296B	597.068B	711.329B	631.459B
14) Gross Margin %	52.658	53.459	54.947	56.393	48.791
15) Operating Profit	68.968B	100.575B	131.331B	120.417B	95.366B
16) EBIT	67.266B	99.802B	131.331B	120.417B	95.366B
17) EBITDA	94.942B	98.590B	134.053B	167.637B	163.048B
18) Pre-Tax Profit	55.821B	57.243B	86.853B	119.823B	91.352B
19) Current Profit	52.639B	52.639B	85.514B	108.252B	81.111B
20) Net Income, Adj+	28.171B	47.607B	66.891B	88.016B	68.064B

Figure 17: However, we estimate that it will be 10% lower than the same



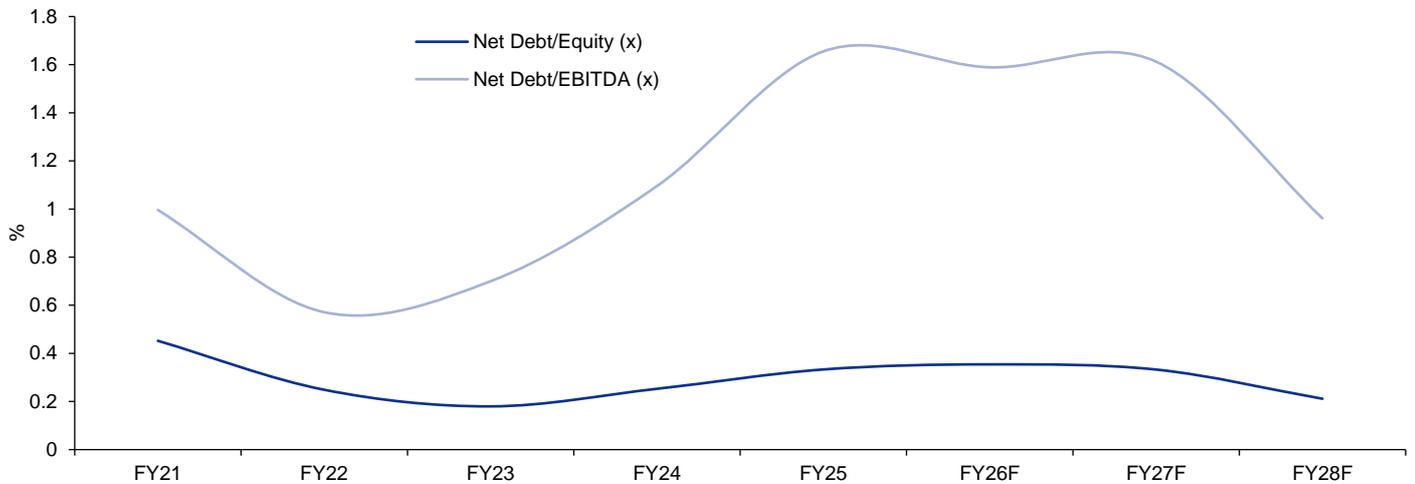
RoE and RoCE to suffer ▶

Figure 18: JSPL's RoE and RoCE will fall



**Net debt to go up ➤**

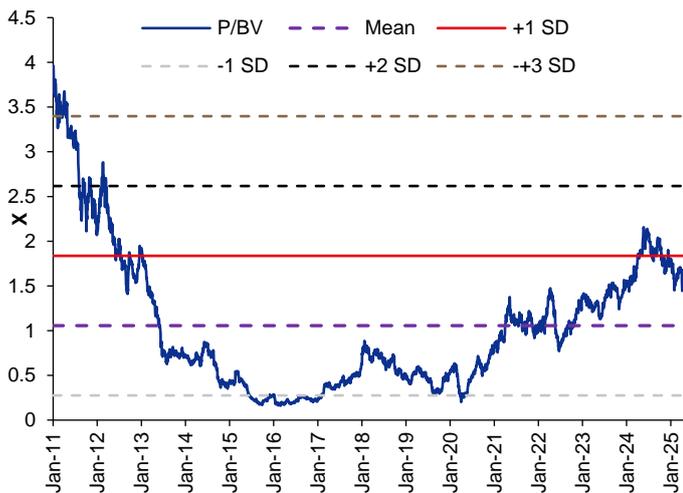
**Figure 19: Net debt/equity and net debt/EBITDA ratios to worsen before improving**



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

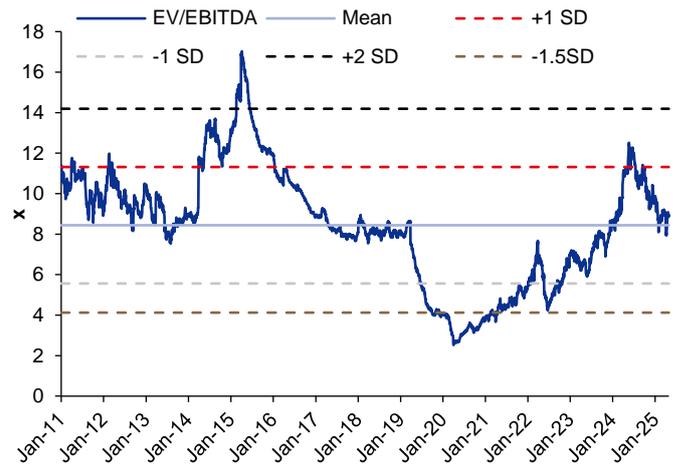
**Valuations are just too high ➤**

**Figure 20: P/BV is only just below its 10-year high**



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

**Figure 21: On EV/ EBITDA, JSPL is trading near its historical average, with earnings downgrade on the cards**



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

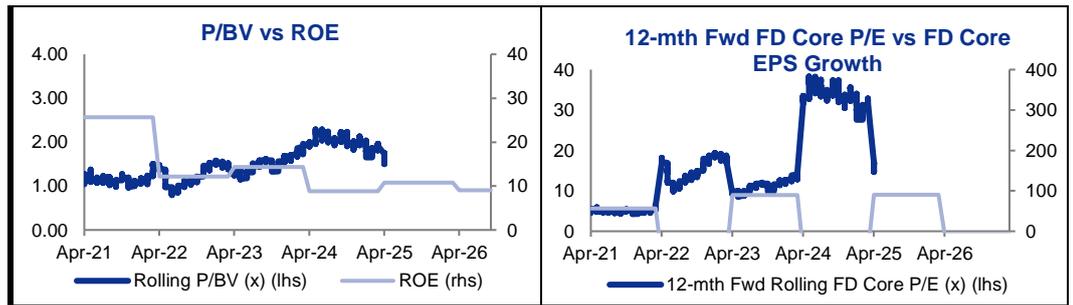
**We value the stock at 8x FY27F EBITDA to arrive at our target price of Rs853 ➤**

**Figure 22: We value the stock at Rs853 and downgrade its rating to REDUCE**

Valuation		
Consolidated FY27F EBITDA	Rs m	1,18,680
EV/EBITDA Multiple	x	8.0
End-FY27F EV	<b>Rs m</b>	9,49,443
End-FY27F Consolidated Net Debt	Rs m	1,92,847
End-FY27E Equity Value	Rs m	7,56,596
Others EBITDA	Rs m	
End-FY26F Equity Value	Rs/share	853
<b>1-Year Forward Target Price</b>	<b>Rs/share</b>	<b>853</b>

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

BY THE NUMBERS



**Profit & Loss**

(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
<b>Total Net Revenues</b>	527,112	500,268	497,650	540,332	571,162
<b>Gross Profit</b>	280,135	280,068	262,052	290,455	302,668
<b>Operating EBITDA</b>	99,349	102,258	94,942	117,161	118,680
Depreciation And Amortisation	(26,910)	(28,218)	(27,676)	(28,719)	(30,200)
<b>Operating EBIT</b>	72,439	74,040	67,266	88,443	88,480
Financial Income/(Expense)	(14,459)	(12,942)	(13,121)	(14,521)	(15,922)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	571	1,566	1,675	1,675	1,675
<b>Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)</b>	58,551	62,664	55,821	75,597	74,234
Exceptional Items	(13,695)		(12,295)		
<b>Pre-tax Profit</b>	44,856	62,664	43,526	75,597	74,234
Taxation	(12,923)	(2,979)	(14,979)	(21,906)	(24,509)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
<b>Profit After Tax</b>	31,934	59,685	28,548	53,690	49,725
Minority Interests	(421)	(49)	(336)		
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
<b>Net Profit</b>	31,512	59,636	28,212	53,690	49,725
Recurring Net Profit	41,262	59,636	36,276	53,690	49,725
<b>Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit</b>	41,262	59,636	36,276	53,690	49,725

**Cash Flow**

(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
<b>EBITDA</b>	99,349	102,258	94,942	117,161	118,680
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	5,078	(36,522)	(36,880)	20,346	(4,102)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	8,500	17,133	30,031	76	82
<b>Other Operating Cashflow</b>	(52,760)	(15,077)	(27,456)	(27,616)	(31,420)
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(14,459)	(14,459)	(13,121)	(14,521)	(15,922)
Tax Paid	27,047	6,751	14,979	21,906	24,509
<b>Cashflow From Operations</b>	72,755	60,084	62,495	117,352	91,826
Capex	(64,021)	(84,266)	(94,500)	(131,830)	(81,130)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	23,836	825			
<b>Cash Flow From Investing</b>	(40,185)	(83,441)	(94,500)	(131,830)	(81,130)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	(7,720)	31,630	10,000	25,000	10,000
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	(1,893)	(1,608)			
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid					
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(15,391)	(16,212)	(13,121)	(14,521)	(15,922)
<b>Cash Flow From Financing</b>	(25,005)	13,811	(3,121)	10,479	(5,922)
Total Cash Generated	7,566	(9,547)	(35,125)	(3,999)	4,775
<b>Free Cashflow To Equity</b>	24,850	8,273	(22,005)	10,522	20,696
<b>Free Cashflow To Firm</b>	47,029	(8,898)	(18,884)	43	26,618

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	54,817	46,938	11,813	7,813	12,588
Total Debtors	9,745	16,645	19,044	23,539	27,810
Inventories	58,868	70,774	69,350	73,644	77,329
Total Other Current Assets	31,327	43,125	79,988	83,431	86,875
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>154,757</b>	<b>177,483</b>	<b>180,194</b>	<b>188,428</b>	<b>204,602</b>
Fixed Assets	513,563	554,012	620,836	723,947	774,877
Total Investments	1,425	1,491	1,491	1,491	1,491
Intangible Assets	554	554	554	554	554
Total Other Non-Current Assets	23,973	53,612	53,612	53,612	53,612
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>539,516</b>	<b>609,669</b>	<b>676,494</b>	<b>779,605</b>	<b>830,535</b>
Short-term Debt	52,277	58,378	58,378	58,378	58,378
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	47,004	46,815	46,241	49,751	52,825
Other Current Liabilities	55,706	54,902	56,434	85,502	89,725
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>154,987</b>	<b>160,096</b>	<b>161,053</b>	<b>193,631</b>	<b>200,929</b>
Total Long-term Debt	72,076	100,585	110,585	135,585	145,585
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	14,155	15,443	46,738	46,738	46,738
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>86,231</b>	<b>116,028</b>	<b>157,323</b>	<b>182,323</b>	<b>192,323</b>
Total Provisions	62,863	63,522	62,258	62,334	62,415
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>304,081</b>	<b>339,645</b>	<b>380,634</b>	<b>438,288</b>	<b>455,668</b>
Shareholders Equity	387,066	443,160	471,708	525,398	575,123
Minority Interests	3,125	4,346	4,346	4,346	4,346
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>390,191</b>	<b>447,507</b>	<b>476,054</b>	<b>529,744</b>	<b>579,470</b>

**Key Ratios**

	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue Growth	3.2%	(5.1%)	(0.5%)	8.6%	5.7%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(36.0%)	2.9%	(7.2%)	23.4%	1.3%
Operating EBITDA Margin	18.8%	20.4%	19.1%	21.7%	20.8%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	(69.37)	(111.76)	(156.77)	(185.70)	(190.92)
BVPS (Rs)	386.14	442.10	470.58	524.14	573.75
Gross Interest Cover	5.01	5.72	5.13	6.09	5.56
Effective Tax Rate	28.8%	4.8%	34.4%	29.0%	33.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio					
Accounts Receivables Days	7.75	9.63	13.09	14.38	16.41
Inventory Days	97.30	107.45	108.54	104.44	102.62
Accounts Payables Days	73.54	77.76	72.08	70.11	69.72
ROIC (%)	13.5%	11.6%	9.1%	10.7%	10.1%
ROCE (%)	12.6%	11.9%	9.8%	11.9%	10.9%
Return On Average Assets	8.2%	9.8%	6.6%	7.5%	6.6%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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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.

*The total expected 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 dividend yields of the 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.