

India

ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*: Buy 12	Hold 6 Sell 3
Current price:	Rs849
Target price:	Rs935
Previous target:	Rs930
Up/downside:	10.1%
InCred Research / Consensus:	6.6%
Reuters:	JKLC.BO
Bloomberg:	JKLC IN
Market cap:	US\$1,170m
	Rs99,855m
Average daily turnover:	US\$1.5m
	Rs132.1m
Current shares o/s:	117.7m
Free float:	48.7%
*Source: Bloomberg	

Key changes in this note

- Maintain our EBITDA estimates for FY26F-27F.
- Maintain ADD rating with a new target price of Rs935.



		Source: Bloomberg			
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M		
Absolute (%)	6.1	26.4	6.4		
Relative (%)	4.8	13.7	(2.5)		

Major shareholders	% held
Promoter & Promoter Group	46.3
Franklin Build India Fund	3.7
Axis MF	3.7

JK Lakshmi Cement

Profitability led by volume and realization

- 4QFY25 consolidated EBITDA at ~Rs3.5bn (Incred estimate: ~Rs3bn) was up
 4% yoy and 74% qoq mainly due to better volume and higher realization.
- Expects to raise premium product sales further going ahead & aims ~30mtpa capacity by FY30F, even with a likely delay in northeast expansion.
- We broadly maintain our FY26F/27F EBITDA estimates. Maintain ADD rating on the stock with a slightly lower target price of Rs935.

Volume growth led by UCWL; surge in premium sales ups realization JK Lakshmi Cement or JKLC's 4QFY25 consol. sales volume (incl. clinker) were up 10% yoy at 3.6mt (~3% above Incred estimate). UCWL led the way in growth, with 1.03mt volume during the quarter, the highest quarterly volume difference between standalone & consolidated. JKLC highlighted the improvement in demand across 2HFY25. JKLC is targeting 10% volume growth vs. the industry's 6-7% in FY26F. In 4Q, non-cement revenue was Rs1.51bn and RMC revenue was Rs750m, with an EBITDA margin of ~3% (~1% qoq). Blended realization improved steeply by ~7% qoq with the rise in cement prices and higher premium product sales (25% vs. 11% qoq). JKLC expects to maintain this realization in 1QFY26F too, while increasing its premium products' share driven by new & premium brands (Green Plus, PRO+). Current prices are flat vs 4Q exit prices in its markets.

Profitability recovers gradually; Rs100-120/t savings in FY26F-27F

On a consol. basis, costs/t at Rs4,298 were down ~3% yoy and up ~1% qoq. P&F costs/t were down ~15% yoy (on Kcal basis, fuel costs stood at Rs1.53 vs. Rs1.57 qoq). Freight costs/t rose by ~7% qoq, with the lead distance up by 12km qoq, as it started supplying to distant markets like Uttar Pradesh (East) from existing plants. JKLC is targeting it to bring back to 380km. EBITDA/t improved by Rs310 qoq to Rs976 vs. our estimate of Rs850. JKLC aims at cost reduction of Rs100-Rs120/t over the next 12-18 months (FY26F-27F) with major benefits to flow in from TSR (~12% in FY26F vs. 9% in FY25), green mix, lead time reduction and improved price positioning from premium products and new brands.

Raises capex guidance; ~30mtpa by FY30F intact despite NE delay

JKLC raised capex guidance for FY26F to Rs13bn (Rs10bn earlier) and Rs18bn for FY27F (Rs15bn earlier). Land acquired for Prayagraj and Madhubani grinding unit expansions. Durg expansion to be completed by 3QFY27F. Its northeast (NE) expansion is facing a delay of seven-to-eight months, driven by local political issues in land acquisition. However, its target of ~30mtpa by FY30F is intact with other inorganic opportunities available (Nagaur and Kutch mines). Consolidated net debt/EBITDA stood at 1.51x vs. 1.23x yoy.

Maintain ADD rating with a slightly lower target price of Rs935

JKLC trades at an EV/EBITDA of 10.8x & EV/t of US\$70 in FY26F. Maintain ADD rating on JKLC with a Mar 2026F target price of Rs935 (Rs930 earlier), set at 9.5x EV/EBITDA. Downside risks: Pressure on cement prices, project delay and a rise in costs.

Financial Summary	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25A	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue (Rsm)	64,515	67,885	61,926	68,218	75,696
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	8,387	10,522	8,646	11,345	13,916
Net Profit (Rsm)	3,587	4,718	2,993	4,625	6,058
Core EPS (Rs)	30.5	39.6	25.5	39.3	51.5
Core EPS Growth	(25.9%)	30.0%	(35.7%)	54.3%	31.0%
FD Core P/E (x)	27.85	21.17	33.38	21.59	16.49
DPS (Rs)	3.5	6.5	6.5	3.9	5.1
Dividend Yield	0.41%	0.77%	0.77%	0.46%	0.61%
EV/EBITDA (x)	13.14	10.97	13.77	10.94	9.36
P/FCFE (x)	35.91	39.28	50.19	31.79	57.17
Net Gearing	35.1%	41.3%	47.4%	55.0%	61.8%
P/BV (x)	3.56	3.13	2.88	2.57	2.25
ROE	13.5%	15.6%	9.0%	12.6%	14.6%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates				(0.43%)	(0.38%)
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCES: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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Profitability led by volume and realization

Results review and earnings-call takeaways

Demand & pricing outlook

- Volume: JKLC consolidated volume stood at 3.6mt, +10% yoy and +19% qoq; which was 3% above our estimate.
- Blended average realization came in at Rs5,274/t, +7% qoq and -3.4% yoy, (~4% above Incred estimate).
- **Volume growth:** Volume growth for FY26F pegged at 10%. The industry recovered from 2HFY25. Demand has been better and is expected to grow by 6.5-7% in FY26F, and JKLC is expected to do better than the industry.
- Pricing: Currently, prices are flat in JKLC's markets vs. 4Q exit prices. The
 prices were better in most geographies, which improved realization. However,
 there was no significant change in the geographical mix. No change in
 discounts, as per management, and realization increased in line with prices.
- For 1QFY26F, realization to improve in line with the industry.
- The non-trade segment is expected to fare better.
- JKLC's brand rejuvenation exercise has been completed with encouraging market feedback. The newly launched 'Green Plus' product has received a good response.
- PRO+ remains a key premium brand, and the focus is on increasing its proportion in the overall product portfolio.
- Premium product sales stood at 25% vs. 11% qoq. To increase it further with the newly launched portfolio.

Costs & Margin

- Total operating costs/t declined by ~3% yoy and were up by ~1% qoq at Rs4,298 where a) energy costs/t decreased by ~15% yoy to Rs1,086; logistics costs/t were up by 7% qoq at Rs1,222. Fixed costs were down by ~4% qoq at Rs1,019/t.
- Lead distance stood at 393km vs. 381km qoq. Started servicing the East UP market from its plants. Targets to reduce the lead distance to 380km.
- Working to improve efficiency. Energy costs stood at Rs1.53/kcal vs. Rs1.57/kcal qoq. Costs to remain at a similar level in 1QFY26F.
- Pet-coke prices have been volatile, as per management.
- To reduce costs by Rs100-120/t by FY27F. To reach 53% (vs. 50% in 4Q) green energy share by FY26F. Major drivers include increasing renewable energy's share, improving TSR (aiming at 12% average in FY26F vs. ~9% in FY25), reducing the lead distance, and improved price positioning from premium products and new brands.
- Udaipur plant AFR has started operations and should benefit in the coming quarter.
- Consol. EBITDA for the quarter came in at ~Rs3.5bn vs. our expectation of ~Rs3bn, up ~74% qoq and 4% yoy. EBITDA/t stood at Rs976 during the quarter vs. Rs666 in 3QFY25 and Rs1,032 in 4QFY24.
- Reported PAT stood at ~Rs1.8bn vs. our expectation of a profit of ~Rs1.6bn.

Capacity expansion & utilization update

- JKLC is in the process of expanding its Surat GU from 1.35mtpa to 2.7mtpa. The project is likely to cost Rs2.25bn and will be funded through debt (Rs. 1.5bn) & the remaining through internal accruals.
- JKLC is expanding clinker capacity at its integrated cement plant at Durg in Chhattisgarh by putting up a clinker line of 2.3mtpa &, four cement GUs, totaling 4.6mtpa, at Durg in Chhattisgarh and also three GUs with an aggregate capacity of 3.4mtpa at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, Madhubani in



Bihar & Patratu in Jharkhand. The project is likely to cost Rs25bn and will be funded through term loans from banks amounting to Rs17.5bn and the remaining through internal accruals

- The company is also putting up a railway siding at its Durg cement plant at a cost of Rs3.25bn, which will funded through a debt of Rs2.25bn and the remaining from internal accruals.
- Actual amount incurred on capex stood at Rs6bn vs. the forecast of Rs8bn for FY25F.
- Capex for FY26F seen at Rs13bn vs. earlier guidance of Rs10bn, and Rs18bn for FY27F (earlier guidance at Rs15bn).
- Acquired land in Prayagraj. For Durg plant, awaiting environment clearance.
 Will be placing orders for equipment soon, but a major hurdle is land acquisition that needs to be done for GU expansion.
- Durg clinker expansion to be completed by 3QFY27F. Phase-2 is likely to be completed in FY28F.
- To achieve 30mtpa capacity by FY30F.
- Railway siding expansion has been mostly done.
- The final approval for conveyor belt is pending with the ministry and is expected soon. Additional capex of Rs700-800m to be incurred on the same (included in total capex) and it will be commissioned by FY26F.
- The northeast project has been delayed (seven-to-eight months) primarily due
 to local and political issues encountered during the land acquisition and initial
 development. The company is taking a strong stand against unreasonable
 local demands. A major portion of the consideration payment is linked to
 milestones and the payment has not been made fully due to some issues, as
 per management.

Other updates

- Non-current financial assets include Rs3.5bn in fixed deposits with banks.
- UCWL's amalgamation with the company to be completed before Dec 2025F.
- The CC ratio stood at 1.44x.
- Blended cement stood at 65%. Green power usage at 50%. The trade segment's sales stood at 60%.
- **Debt:** Consolidated net debt stood at Rs11.5bn.
- In 4Q, non-cement revenue was Rs1.51bn and the readymix concrete revenue at Rs750m. Margin in the non-cement business was 3%.



Cement | India JK Lakshmi Cement | May 29, 2025

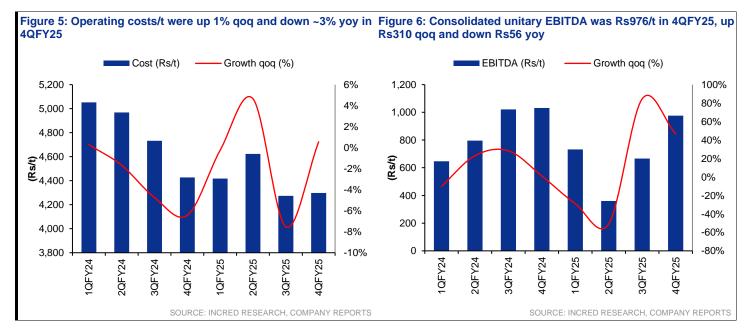
Particulars (Rs m)	4QFY25	4QFY25F	3QFY25	4QFY24		% Change	
` '	!			_	4QFY25F	3QFY25	4QFY24
Net Sales	18,976	17,671	14,968	17,809	7.4%	26.8%	6.6%
Raw Materials Consumed	3,492	3,642	2,748	3,720	-4.1%	27.1%	-6.1%
Freight and Forwarding Expenses	4,397	3,718	3,475	3,472	18.3%	26.5%	26.7%
Power and Fuel Costs	3,909	3,970	3,507	4,153	-1.5%	11.5%	-5.9%
Employee Costs	1,137	1,110	1,144	953	2.5%	-0.6%	19.4%
Other Expenses	2,530	2,264	2,078	2,147	11.7%	21.7%	17.8%
Total Expenditure	15,464	14,704	12,951	14,443	5.2%	19.4%	7.1%
EBITDA	3,512	2,967	2,018	3,365	18.4%	74.1%	4.4%
Depreciation	767	785	762	679	-2.4%	0.6%	13.0%
EBIT	2,745	2,182	1,256	2,687	25.8%	118.7%	2.2%
Interest	444	482	453	446	-8.0%	-2.1%	-0.6%
Other Income	159	172	90	263	-7.3%	76.2%	-39.4%
PBT	2,461	1,871	893	2,503	31.5%	175.6%	-1.7%
Tax	603	312	266	879	93.5%	127.2%	-31.4%
PAT before MI & Associates	1,858	1,560	628	1,624	19.1%	196.1%	14.4%
Minority Interest	96	0	11	51			
Profit from Associates	74	0	-23	-3			
Recurring PAT	1,835	1,560	594	1,570	17.7%	209.0%	16.9%
Extraordinary Items	0	0	0	0			
Reported PAT	1,835	1,560	594	1,570	17.7%	209.0%	16.9%
EPS (Rs)	15.6	13.3	5.0	13.3	17.7%	209.0%	16.9%
Gross Margin	37.8%	35.9%	35.0%	36.3%	195bp	283bp	153bp
EBITDA Margin	18.5%	16.8%	13.5%	18.9%	172bp	503bp	-39br
EBIT Margin	14.5%	12.3%	8.4%	15.1%	212bp	608bp	-62b
PBT Margin	13.0%	10.6%	6.0%	14.1%	238bp	700bp	-109br
PAT Margin	9.7%	8.8%	4.0%	8.8%	85bp	570bp	86br
Tax Rate	24.5%	16.7%	29.7%	35.1%	785bp	-523bp	-1,062br
Cost Items as % of Sales						•	
RM Costs	18.4%	20.6%	18.4%	20.9%	-221bp	4bp	-249br
Freight Costs	23.2%	21.0%	23.2%	19.5%	213bp	-4bp	368b
P&F Costs	20.6%	22.5%	23.4%	23.3%	-187bp	-283bp	-272br

Figure 2: Consolidated 4QFY25 results as per tonne analysis							
Per tonne analysis	4QFY25	4QFY25F	3QFY25	4QFY24	9	% Change	
·					4QFY25F	3QFY25	4QFY24
Sales Volume (Cement + Clinker)	3.60	3.49	3.03	3.26	3.1%	18.7%	10.3%
Realization	5,274	5,063	4,940	5,459	4.2%	6.8%	-3.4%
EBITDA/t	976	850	666	1,032	14.8%	46.6%	-5.4%
RM Cost/t	971	1,044	907	1,140	-7.0%	7.0%	-14.9%
P&F Costs/t	1,086	1,137	1,157	1,273	-4.5%	-6.1%	-14.7%
Freight Costs/t	1,222	1,065	1,147	1,064	14.7%	6.6%	14.8%
Employee Costs/t	316	318	377	292	-0.6%	-16.3%	8.2%
Other Expenses/t	703	649	686	658	8.4%	2.5%	6.8%
Total Costs/t	4,298	4,213	4,274	4,428	2.0%	0.6%	-2.9%
SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS							



Key quarterly charts ➤







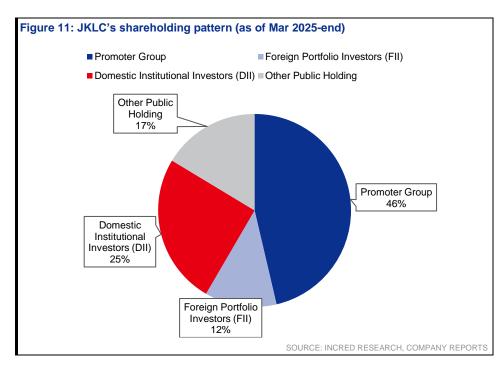
Key changes ▶

Rs. m	New Old Change (%)		New Old			
	FY26F	FY27F	FY26F	FY27F	FY26F	FY27F
Volume	13.1	14.3	13	14	0%	-1%
Sales	68,218	75,696	67730	75844	1%	0%
EBITDA	11,345	13,916	11348	13964	0%	0%
Recurring PAT	4,625	6,058	4481	5890	3%	3%
EPS (Rs.)	39.3	51.5	38	50	3%	3%

Figure 8: Changes in our earnings estimates vs. Bloomberg consensus estimates							
Rs. m	Incred	Incred			Cha	ange (%)	
	FY26F	FY27F	FY26F	FY27F	FY26F	FY27F	
Sales	68,218	75,696	69,766	78,397	-2%	-3%	
EBITDA	11,345	13,916	11,401	13,571	0%	3%	
PAT	4,625	6,058	6,257	8,048	-26%	-25%	
SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS, BLOOMBERG							

	FY23A	FY24A	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F
Volume (in mtpa)	11	12	12	13	14
Yoy	2%	5%	1%	8%	9%
Realisation (per tonne)	5,650	5,662	5,106	5,208	5,301
Yoy	17%	0%	-10%	2%	2%
Costs (per tonne)	4,916	4,785	4,393	4,342	4,327
Yoy	23%	-3%	-8%	-1%	0%
EBITDA (per tonne)	735	878	713	866	975
Yoy	-13%	19%	-19%	21%	13%
EBITDA (Rs m)	8,387	10,522	8,646	11,345	13,916
Yoy	-12%	25%	-18%	31%	23%
	S	OURCE: INCRED	RESEARCH EST	IMATES, COMPA	ANY REPORTS

Figure 10: Maintain ADD rating EV/EBITDA	with a Mar 2026F target price of Rs935, set at 9.5x
Valuation	TP
Target EV/EBITDA (x)	9.5
Target EV (Rs m)	1,32,477
Net debt / (cash) (Rs m)	22,406
No. of shares (m)	118
Fair value per share (Rs)	935
	SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS

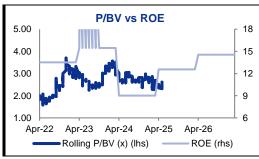








BY THE NUMBERS





Profit & Loss					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25A	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Net Revenues	64,515	67,885	61,926	68,218	75,696
Gross Profit	64,515	67,885	61,926	68,218	75,696
Operating EBITDA	8,387	10,522	8,646	11,345	13,916
Depreciation And Amortisation	(2,283)	(2,460)	(2,994)	(3,443)	(3,788)
Operating EBIT	6,104	8,062	5,652	7,901	10,128
Financial Income/(Expense)	(1,334)	(1,504)	(1,812)	(2,102)	(2,417)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	575	681	464	488	512
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	5,345	7,239	4,304	6,287	8,223
Exceptional Items		86	(6)		
Pre-tax Profit	5,345	7,325	4,298	6,287	8,223
Taxation	(1,654)	(2,446)	(1,278)	(1,635)	(2,138)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	3,692	4,879	3,020	4,653	6,085
Minority Interests	(105)	(161)	(27)	(27)	(27)
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	3,587	4,718	2,993	4,625	6,058
Recurring Net Profit	3,586	4,661	2,997	4,625	6,058
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	3,586	4,661	2,997	4,625	6,058

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25A	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
EBITDA	8,387	10,522	8,646	11,345	13,916
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	1,331	(1,261)	(439)	(424)	629
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	575	681	464	488	512
Other Operating Cashflow	(963)	3,001	2,246	2,246	2,246
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(1,334)	(1,504)	(1,812)	(2,102)	(2,417)
Tax Paid	(1,654)	(2,446)	(1,278)	(1,635)	(2,138)
Cashflow From Operations	6,342	8,992	7,827	9,918	12,747
Capex	(7,320)	(10,060)	(6,524)	(13,500)	(16,500)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	4,325	1,261	(4,988)	725	
Cash Flow From Investing	(2,995)	(8,800)	(11,512)	(12,776)	(16,500)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	(566)	2,351	5,675	6,000	5,500
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares					
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(412)	(765)	(765)	(463)	(606)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(1,680)	(1,942)	(1,732)	(1,773)	(1,773)
Cash Flow From Financing	(2,658)	(356)	3,178	3,765	3,121
Total Cash Generated	689	(164)	(507)	907	(632)
Free Cashflow To Equity	2,781	2,543	1,990	3,142	1,747
Free Cashflow To Firm	4,681	1,696	(1,873)	(756)	(1,336)

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Cement | India

Balance Sheet (Rs mn) Mar-23A Mar-24A Mar-25A Mar-26F Mar-27F Total Cash And Equivalents 8,504 6,397 7,959 8,865 8,234 Total Debtors 1.141 654 443 1.068 1.121 Inventories 8,416 9,912 8,648 9,719 10,369 **Total Other Current Assets** 1,660 1,545 1,705 1,847 1,677 18,412 19,220 21,411 21,591 **Total Current Assets** 19.252 55,542 77,311 Fixed Assets 34,547 50,757 65,099 Total Investments 151 345 343 343 343 Intangible Assets 9,625 4,557 3,501 2,777 2,777 **Total Other Non-Current Assets** 1,833 2,430 6,185 6.685 7.185 **Total Non-current Assets** 46,157 58,088 65,571 74,903 87,616 Short-term Debt 3,174 4,610 4,761 6,261 7,761 Current Portion of Long-Term Debt Total Creditors 5,860 5,560 5,635 4.548 5.186 Other Current Liabilities 7,371 10,201 10,898 11,120 12,111 **Total Current Liabilities** 16,406 20,370 20,207 22,567 25,507 Total Long-term Debt 15,289 20,511 25,011 29,011 15.639 Hybrid Debt - Debt Component 5,305 6,921 7,521 8,021 8,521 Total Other Non-Current Liabilities **Total Non-current Liabilities** 20,594 22,560 28,032 33,032 37,532 Total Provisions **Total Liabilities** 37,000 42,930 48.238 55,598 63.039 Shareholders Equity 28,039 31,867 34,712 38,875 44,327 Minority Interests 1,841 1,841 1,841 370 1,704 Total Equity <u>46,1</u>68 28,409 33,570 36,553 40,716

Key Ratios					
	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25A	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue Growth	19.0%	5.2%	(8.8%)	10.2%	11.0%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(11.8%)	25.4%	(17.8%)	31.2%	22.7%
Operating EBITDA Margin	13.0%	15.5%	14.0%	16.6%	18.4%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	(84.62)	(117.69)	(147.09)	(190.37)	(242.46)
BVPS (Rs)	238.22	270.74	294.92	330.29	376.61
Gross Interest Cover	4.58	5.36	3.12	3.76	4.19
Effective Tax Rate	30.9%	33.4%	29.7%	26.0%	26.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	11.5%	16.5%	25.5%	10.0%	10.0%
Accounts Receivables Days	2.85	2.95	4.45	5.86	5.45
Inventory Days	40.24	49.27	54.70	49.14	48.43
Accounts Payables Days	30.95	36.33	34.62	31.24	31.97
ROIC (%)	14.0%	14.9%	9.3%	11.2%	12.2%
ROCE (%)	13.5%	16.0%	9.8%	11.8%	13.1%
Return On Average Assets	8.1%	8.9%	6.0%	7.5%	8.3%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



Cement | India JK Lakshmi Cement | May 29, 2025

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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.

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.