

HOLD
TP: Rs 400 | A 3%
GREENPANEL INDUSTRIES

**Building Materials** 

01 February 2024

## Dismal Q3FY24; No sigh of relief for MDF in near-future

- Sharp contraction in operating profit (-34% YoY) for fifth consecutive quarter owing to supply-side pressure in MDF industry
- Volume guidance downgraded once again on rising import pressure and elevated timber prices
- Maintain HOLD with unchanged TP of Rs 400 given tepid earnings growth profile and expensive valuations

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**Dismal Q3:** GREENP's revenue/EBITDA/PAT fell by 8%/34%/8% YoY in Q3FY24. The company missed our EBITDA estimates by 24% due to weak volumes and relentless margin pressure (-160bps QoQ to 17.8%) in the MDF segment. While a 15% YoY drop in exports led to flat YoY volumes in MDF vs. 8% growth estimated, margin stress emanated from higher timber prices (North/South: +2%/+4% QoQ), increased brand spend (+140bps) and soft domestic realisations (-4%) due to an inferior product mix.

**Key highlights:** GREENP reported sharp YoY contraction in operating profit for the fifth consecutive quarter due to a continued supply overhang in the MDF industry. MDF sales volume was flat YoY (4Y CAGR: +8%) as domestic sales (+4%) absorbed the impact of weak exports (-15%). MDF segment EBITDA per unit fell 6% QoQ in Q3. The plywood segment reported a sharp volume decline for the sixth consecutive quarter (-23% YoY) due to the impact of internal restructuring and the company's exit from the decorative veneer business.

**Guidance downgraded:** Management has cut its volume growth guidance for MDF from 3-4% to flat growth in FY24 due to rising import pressure in the domestic market and restricted exports to large buyers on account of low profit contribution. For FY25, GREENP is targeting volume growth of 15% YoY, including the contribution from a new expansion project in Q4FY25. On the margin front, we expect pressure to persist in the coming quarters as management sees pricing headwinds in the domestic market from rising competitive intensity and believes timber costs will remain high in FY25.

**Maintain HOLD:** Factoring in the disappointing Q3FY24 result, we cut our FY24/ FY25/FY26 EPS estimates by 11%/2%/3%. We maintain our HOLD rating with an unchanged TP of Rs 400 as we expect GREENP to deliver a tepid 5% earnings CAGR over FY23-FY26, with ROE sliding from 21.1% in FY23 to 16.5% in FY26 due to supply-side pressure in the MDF industry. Current valuations also look expensive at 24.1x on 1Y forward P/E vs. the stock's historical average of 16.7x. Our target P/E multiple remains unchanged at 20x on Sep'25E EPS – a 20% premium to the historical average.

## **Key changes**

Target	Rating	
<b>∢</b> ►	<b>∢</b> ▶	

Ticker/Price	GREENP IN/Rs 388
Market cap	US\$ 578.5mn
Free float	47%
BM ADV	US\$ 2.0mn
52wk high/low	Rs 450/Rs 255
Promoter/FPI/DII	53%/4%/23%

Source: NSE | Price as of 1 Feb 2024

## **Key financials**

Y/E 31 Mar	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	17,829	16,046	18,338
EBITDA (Rs mn)	4,165	2,722	3,576
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	2,521	1,568	2,056
Adj. EPS (Rs)	20.6	12.8	16.8
Consensus EPS (Rs)	20.6	15.3	19.0
Adj. ROAE (%)	23.5	12.4	14.4
Adj. P/E (x)	18.9	30.3	23.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	10.9	17.7	13.5
Adj. EPS growth (%)	3.9	(37.8)	31.1

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

## Stock performance



Source: NSE





Fig 1 – Quarterly performance – Consolidated

Particulars (Rs mn)	Q3FY24	Q3FY23	YoY (%)	Q2FY24	QoQ (%)	9MFY24	9MFY23	YoY (%)
Total operating income	3,857	4,202	(8.2)	3,987	(3.3)	11,707	13,414	(12.7)
Raw Material expense	1,692	1,753	(3.5)	1,770	(4.4)	5,073	5,418	(6.4)
Gross Profit	2,166	2,449	(11.6)	2,218	(2.3)	6,633	7,997	(17.1)
Employee expense	335	353	(5.1)	354	(5.4)	1,021	1,078	(5.3)
Sales Promotion	85	42	102.0	32	166.0	267	143	86.3
Other expense	1,143	1,134	0.8	1,141	0.2	3,393	3,372	0.6
EBITDA	603	920	(34.5)	691	(12.7)	1,952	3,403	(42.6)
D&A	179	183	(2.1)	185	(3.1)	546	548	(0.3)
EBIT	424	737	(42.5)	506	(16.3)	1,405	2,855	(50.8)
Interest cost	62	114	(45.4)	19	225.1	121	158	(23.5)
Non-operating expense/(income)	(13)	40	(132.3)	(68)	(80.8)	(145)	(169)	(14.5)
PBT	374	583	(35.7)	555	(32.5)	1,429	2,866	(50.1)
Tax	28	208	(86.4)	145	(80.4)	300	990	(69.7)
Reported PAT	346	375	(7.8)	410	(15.6)	1,129	1,876	(39.8)
Adjusted PAT	347	375	(7.6)	410	(15.4)	1,130	1,836	(38.5)
As % of net revenues			(bps)		(bps)			(bps)
Gross margin	56.1	58.3	(214)	55.6	53	56.7	59.6	(295)
Employee cost	8.7	8.4	29	8.9	(20)	8.7	8.0	68
Sales Promotion	2.2	1.0	120	0.8	140	2.3	1.1	121
Other cost	29.6	27.0	265	28.6	103	29.0	25.1	385
EBITDA margin	15.6	21.9	(627)	17.3	(170)	16.7	25.4	(870)
Tax rate	7.6	35.6	(2,804)	26.1	(1,852)	21.0	34.6	(1,354)
APAT margin	9.0	8.9	6	10.3	(129)	9.6	13.7	(404)

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 2 – Segment financials

Q3FY24	Q3FY23	YoY (%)	Q2FY24	QoQ (%)	9MFY24	9MFY23	YoY (%)
384	576	(33.4)	432	(11.2)	1,266	1,896	(33.2)
3,474	3,626	(4.2)	3,555	(2.3)	10,441	11,519	(9.4)
3,857	4,202	(8.2)	3,987	(3.3)	11,707	13,414	(12.7)
1.5	2.0	(22.6)	1.64	(6.1)	4.8	6.5	(27.2)
1,18,301	1,18,218	0.1	1,23,615	(4.3)	3,57,714	3,69,479	(3.2)
249	289	(13.9)	263	(5.4)	266	290	(8.3)
29,300	30,585	(4.2)	28,679	2.2	29,188	31,176	(6.4)
(4.4)	7.9	(1229bps)	(1.3)	(310bps)	(0.0)	0.8	(81bps)
17.8	24.0	(624bps)	19.4	(163bps)	1.9	2.8	(93bps)
15.6	21.8	(624bps)	17.2	(159bps)	1.7	2.5	(85bps)
	384 3,474 3,857 1.5 1,18,301 249 29,300 (4.4) 17.8	384 576 3,474 3,626 3,857 4,202  1.5 2.0 1,18,301 1,18,218  249 289 29,300 30,585  (4.4) 7.9 17.8 24.0	384 576 (33.4) 3,474 3,626 (4.2) 3,857 4,202 (8.2)  1.5 2.0 (22.6) 1,18,301 1,18,218 0.1  249 289 (13.9) 29,300 30,585 (4.2)  (4.4) 7.9 (1229bps) 17.8 24.0 (624bps)	384 576 (33.4) 432 3,474 3,626 (4.2) 3,555 3,857 4,202 (8.2) 3,987  1.5 2.0 (22.6) 1.64 1,18,301 1,18,218 0.1 1,23,615  249 289 (13.9) 263 29,300 30,585 (4.2) 28,679  (4.4) 7.9 (1229bps) (1.3) 17.8 24.0 (624bps) 19.4	384 576 (33.4) 432 (11.2) 3,474 3,626 (4.2) 3,555 (2.3) 3,857 4,202 (8.2) 3,987 (3.3)  1.5 2.0 (22.6) 1.64 (6.1) 1,18,301 1,18,218 0.1 1,23,615 (4.3)  249 289 (13.9) 263 (5.4) 29,300 30,585 (4.2) 28,679 2.2  (4.4) 7.9 (1229bps) (1.3) (310bps) 17.8 24.0 (624bps) 19.4 (163bps)	384 576 (33.4) 432 (11.2) 1,266 3,474 3,626 (4.2) 3,555 (2.3) 10,441 3,857 4,202 (8.2) 3,987 (3.3) 11,707  1.5 2.0 (22.6) 1.64 (6.1) 4.8 1,18,301 1,18,218 0.1 1,23,615 (4.3) 3,57,714  249 289 (13.9) 263 (5.4) 266 29,300 30,585 (4.2) 28,679 2.2 29,188  (4.4) 7.9 (1229bps) (1.3) (310bps) (0.0) 17.8 24.0 (624bps) 19.4 (163bps) 1.9	384 576 (33.4) 432 (11.2) 1,266 1,896 3,474 3,626 (4.2) 3,555 (2.3) 10,441 11,519 3,857 4,202 (8.2) 3,987 (3.3) 11,707 13,414  1.5 2.0 (22.6) 1.64 (6.1) 4.8 6.5 1,18,301 1,18,218 0.1 1,23,615 (4.3) 3,57,714 3,69,479  249 289 (13.9) 263 (5.4) 266 290 29,300 30,585 (4.2) 28,679 2.2 29,188 31,176  (4.4) 7.9 (1229bps) (1.3) (310bps) (0.0) 0.8 17.8 24.0 (624bps) 19.4 (163bps) 1.9 2.8



## **Earnings call highlights**

- MDF demand: GREENP registered weak MDF volume growth of 4% YoY in the
  domestic market during Q3FY24 due to soft demand conditions in the month of
  Nov'23 amid the festive season and rising import pressure. However, management
  expects its domestic quarterly volume run-rate to improve from Q4FY24 onwards.
- MDF pricing: GREENP did not take any price cuts in the domestic market during Q3FY24. However, the company's domestic MDF realisation fell 4% QoQ due to the introduction of cheaper products for OEMs, which accounted for 29% of domestic sales and are priced at a discount of ~30% compared to its other offerings. The share of such products for OEMs is likely to come down in coming quarters as domestic volumes increase.
- MDF imports: The monthly import run-rate for MDF has declined from 48,000cbm in Q2FY24 to 32,000cbm in Q3FY24, but still remains high. The price difference between domestic and imported plain industrial-grade MDF products remains at 18-20%.
- BIS: BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) norms will become mandatory for the MDF sector from Feb'24 onwards. As per management, BIS implementation may result in relief for domestic players in terms of reduction in the pace of imports over the near term and increase in the cost of non-compliant products in the medium term.
- Guidance: Management has cut its volume growth guidance for MDF from 3-4% YoY to flat growth in FY24 due to rising import pressure in the domestic market and restricted exports to large buyers. The company is targeting volume growth of 15% YoY in FY25, including the contribution of 20,000-30,000cbm from a new expansion project in Q4FY25
- MDF margin: MDF margin came under pressure in Q3FY24 due to an increase in wood prices (North: +2% QoQ; South: +4% QoQ), higher brand spend and an unfavourable product mix. We believe margins will remain under pressure in coming quarters as management expects pricing headwinds in the domestic market from rising competitive intensity and timber prices to remain elevated in FY25. Timber prices in India are expected to moderate from FY26 onwards once new plantations come into the market.
- Plywood: GREENP's plywood segment has reported a sharp decline in volumes for the past few quarters due to the impact of team & distribution network restructuring as well as its exit from the decorative veneer business. Management expects plywood volumes of 7.8mn sqm in FY25 (vs. 9.3mn sqm in FY22).
- Capex: The company plans to add 231,000cbm of MDF capacity through the brownfield route at a cost of Rs 6bn (Rs 4bn in FY24 plus Rs 2bn in FY25). This is now planned for Q4FY25 from Q3FY25 earlier due to delays in shipment of equipment.
- **Dealer network:** GREENP added 186 new dealers in Q3FY24.



Fig 3 – GREENP reported a sharp decline in plywood volumes for the sixth consecutive quarter...

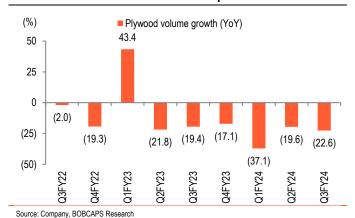
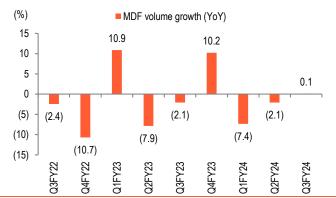
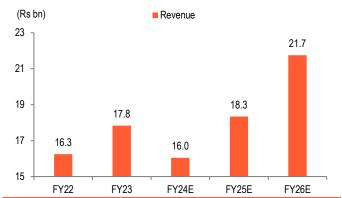


Fig 5 – MDF volumes stayed flat in Q3FY24 on a weak base...



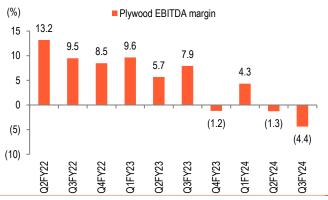
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 7 – GREENP's revenue is projected to grow at a meagre 7% CAGR over FY23-FY26E



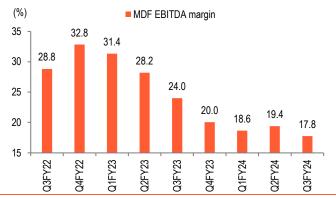
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 4 – ...with negative operating margin on high timber prices and negative operating leverage



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – ...and margins have come under severe stress over the past few quarters on supply-side pressure



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 – EBITDA margin to fall from 23.4% in FY23 to 22.4% in FY26E due to supply overhang in MDF industry

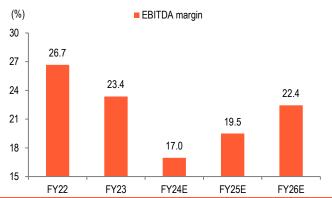
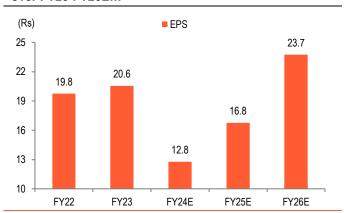


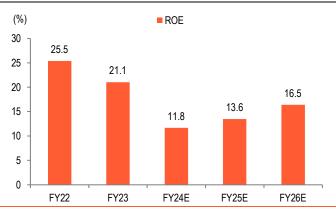


Fig 9 – EPS is projected to grow at a meagre 5% CAGR over FY23-FY26E...



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 10 – ...and ROE to fall from 21.1% in FY23 to 16.5% in FY26E





## Valuation methodology

Factoring in the disappointing Q3FY24 result, we cut our FY24/FY25/FY26 EPS estimates by 11%/2%/3%. We maintain our HOLD rating on the stock with an unchanged TP of Rs 400 as we expect GREENP to deliver a tepid 5% earnings CAGR over FY23-FY26, with ROE sliding from 21.1% in FY23 to 16.5% in FY26 due to supply-side pressure in the MDF industry.

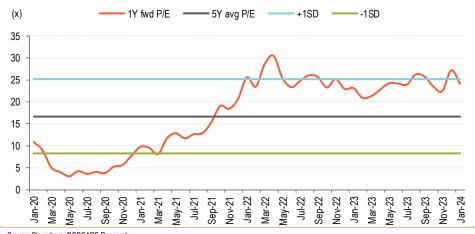
Current valuations also look expensive at 24.1x one-year forward P/E vs. the stock's historical average of 16.7x. Our target P/E multiple remains unchanged at 20x on Sep'25E EPS – a 20% premium to the historical average. See our report of 17 January, **Strong foundations**, for a detailed view.

Fig 11 - Revised estimates

(Rs bn)		New			Old		(	Change (%)	
	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Total operating income	16.0	18.3	21.7	16.6	18.7	21.9	(3.4)	(2.1)	(0.7)
EBITDA	2.7	3.6	4.9	3.0	3.5	4.8	(8.1)	1.9	0.7
EBITDA Margin (%)	17.0	19.5	22.4	17.8	18.7	22.1	(86bps)	78bps	32bps
Adjusted PAT	1.6	2.1	2.9	1.8	2.1	3.0	(10.7)	(2.0)	(2.9)
EPS (Rs)	12.8	16.8	23.7	14.3	17.1	24.5	(10.7)	(2.0)	(2.9)

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 12 - Trading at 24.1x on 1Y forward P/E vs. historical average of 16.7x



Source: Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 13 - Key assumptions

(%)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue mix						_
MDF	78.7	84.2	86.3	89.3	89.7	90.0
Plywood	21.3	15.8	13.7	10.7	10.3	10.0
Sales volume growth						
MDF	20.4	30.1	2.4	(2.3)	15.7	18.4
Plywood	(0.2)	9.5	(7.7)	(23.1)	15.0	15.0
EBITDA margin						
MDF	22.7	30.5	26.0	19.0	21.1	24.1
Plywood	10.4	9.9	5.0	0.6	4.6	7.0



# **Key risks**

- Lower imports and a steep increase in global MDF prices are the key upside risks to our estimates.
- Weak domestic MDF prices and material delays along with cost escalation in ongoing capex projects are the key downside risks.

# **Sector recommendation snapshot**

Company	Ticker	Market Cap (US\$ bn)	Price (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating
Apollo Pipes	APOLP IN	0.3	678	600	SELL
Astral	ASTRA IN	6.2	1,889	2,000	HOLD
Century Plyboards	CPBI IN	2.1	790	800	HOLD
Cera Sanitaryware	CRS IN	1.3	8,263	8,100	HOLD
Finolex Industries	FNXP IN	1.7	220	230	HOLD
Greenlam Industries	GRLM IN	0.8	539	600	HOLD
Greenpanel Industries	GREENP IN	0.6	388	400	HOLD
Greenply Industries	MTLM IN	0.4	245	300	BUY
Hindware Home Innovation	HINDWARE IN	0.4	466	700	BUY
Kajaria Ceramics	KJC IN	2.7	1,378	1,400	HOLD
Prince Pipes & Fittings	PRINCPIP IN	0.9	702	800	HOLD
Somany Ceramics	SOMC IN	0.4	748	900	BUY
Supreme Industries	SI IN	6.3	4,071	4,300	HOLD

Source: BOBCAPS Research, NSE | Price as of 1 Feb 2024



# **Financials**

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue	16,250	17,829	16,046	18,338	21,746
EBITDA	4,334	4,165	2,722	3,576	4,880
Depreciation	734	720	736	894	1,053
EBIT	3,600	3,445	1,986	2,682	3,827
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(171)	(190)	(151)	(120)	(120)
Other inc./(exp.)	90	194	195	200	200
Exceptional items	29	0	0	0	0
EBT	3,489	3,449	2,030	2,762	3,907
Income taxes	1,085	944	462	706	994
Extraordinary items	0	(61)	0	0	0
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	0	0	0	0	0
Reported net profit	2,405	2,565	1,568	2,056	2,912
Adjustments	20	(45)	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	2,425	2,521	1,568	2,056	2,912
Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Accounts payables	1,378	1,111	1,003	1,146	1,359
Other current liabilities	534	578	578	578	578
Provisions	30	17	15	18	21
Debt funds	2,826	1,904	1,419	149	149
Other liabilities	1,139	1,499	1,499	1,499	1,499
Equity capital	123	123	123	123	123
Reserves & surplus	9,394	11,816	13,201	15,011	17,556
Shareholders' fund	9,516	11,939	13,323	15,134	17,678
Total liab. and equities	15,424	17,048	17.837	18,523	21,283
Cash and cash eq.	2,226	3,778	1,100	676	3,876
Accounts receivables	414	444	400	457	542
Inventories	1,658	1,525	1,782	1,716	1,900
Other current assets	564	592	569	599	644
Investments	0	0	0	0	044
Net fixed assets	9,948	9,453	8,981	14,344	13,591
CWIP	9,946	49	3,799	49	13,391
	434	463	463	463	463
Intangible assets Deferred tax assets, net	434	463	463	403	403
Other assets Total assets	179	744	744	218	218
Total assets	15,424	17,048	17,837	18,523	21,283
Cash Flows	<b>5</b> 1/00 t	T)/00 4	=>/0.4=	=>/===	=1/2.2
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Cash flow from operations	3,748	3,376	1,960	3,029	3,824
Capital expenditures	(302)	(823)	(4,013)	(1,981)	(300)
Change in investments	0	0	0	0	0
Other investing cash flows	60	255	195	165	165
Cash flow from investing	(241)	(569)	(3,819)	(1,816)	(136)
Equities issued/Others	0	0	0	0	0
Debt raised/repaid	(1,642)	(922)	(485)	(1,271)	0
Interest expenses	(171)	(190)	(151)	(120)	(120)
Dividends paid	(184)	(184)	(184)	(245)	(368)
Other financing cash flows	(8)	41	0	0	0
Cash flow from financing	(2,005)	(1,255)	(820)	(1,636)	(488)
Chg in cash & cash eq.	1,501	1,552	(2,678)	(424)	3,200
Closing cash & cash eq.	2,226	3,778	1,100	676	3,876

Per Share					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Reported EPS	19.6	20.9	12.8	16.8	23.7
Adjusted EPS	19.8	20.6	12.8	16.8	23.7
Dividend per share	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.0	3.0
Book value per share	77.6	97.4	108.6	123.4	144.2
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
EV/Sales	2.6	2.5	3.0	2.6	2.2
EV/EBITDA	9.9	10.9	17.7	13.5	9.6
Adjusted P/E	19.6	18.9	30.3	23.1	16.3
P/BV	5.0	4.0	3.6	3.1	2.7
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	69.5	73.1	77.3	74.4	74.5
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	96.9	100.1	102.2	103.0	102.1
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	22.2	19.3	12.4	14.6	17.6
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	105.4	104.6	90.0	99.0	102.2
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
Adjusted ROAE	25.5	21.1	11.8	13.6	16.5
Ratio Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
YoY growth (%)					
Revenue	59.2	9.7	(10.0)	14.3	18.6
EBITDA	112.0	(3.9)	(34.7)	31.4	36.5
Adjusted EPS	248.8	3.9	(37.8)	31.1	41.7
Profitability & Return ratios (%)			. ,		
EBITDA margin	26.7	23.4	17.0	19.5	22.4
EBIT margin	22.2	19.3	12.4	14.6	17.6
Adjusted profit margin	14.9	14.1	9.8	11.2	13.4
Adjusted ROAE	28.8	23.5	12.4	14.4	17.8
ROCE	29.9	26.3	14.8	18.9	22.6
Working capital days (days)					
Receivables	9	9	9	9	ç
Inventory	37	31	41	34	32
Payables	31	23	23	23	23
Ratios (x)					
Gross asset turnover	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0
O t t'-	4.0	0.7	4 7	4.0	2.0

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Note: TA = Total Assets

1.6

21.1

0.1

2.7

18.1

(0.2)

1.7

13.2

0.0

1.8

22.4

0.0

3.3 31.9

(0.1)

Current ratio

Net interest coverage ratio

Adjusted debt/equity



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BUY - Expected return >+15%

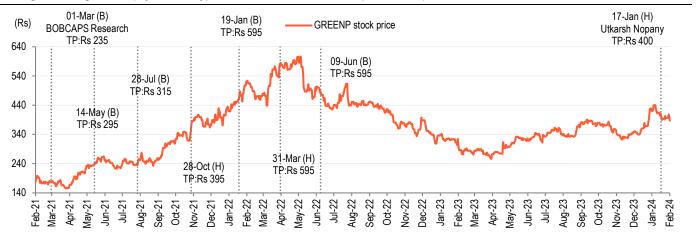
HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

Our recommendation scale does not factor in short-term stock price volatility related to market fluctuations. Thus, our recommendations may not always be strictly in line with the recommendation scale as shown above.

## Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): GREENPANEL INDUSTRIES (GREENP IN)



 $B-Buy,\,H-Hold,\,S-Sell,\,A-Add,\,R-Reduce$ 

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