

BUY TP: Rs 450 | ▲ 27%

JK PAPER

I

Paper

Beats estimate on better cost control

- Top line broadly in line; but beats EBITDA estimate by 24% on improved margin due to operating efficiencies
- Margin to improve over medium term as paper prices bottomed out in Q4FY25 and wood prices to moderate from Q4FY26
- Maintain BUY with an unchanged TP of Rs 450 per share on strong business risk profile with reasonable valuations

Beats estimate: JKPAPER Q4FY25 top line came broadly in line with our estimate (-1.7% YoY to Rs 16.9bn vs Rs 17.0bn estimate), but sharply beats our EBITDA estimate by 24% on account of better-than-expected EBITDA margin (+256bps QoQ to 12.8% vs 10.3% estimate) due to operating efficiencies.

Highlights: JKPAPER paper & board sales volume was flat YoY in Q4FY25. EBITDA de-grew by 39.6% YoY in Q4FY25, due to weak realisations (-3.3% YoY) and higher wood costs. Paper & board sales realisation was flat on QoQ basis at Rs 70.3/kg. However, EBITDA margin improved by 256bps QoQ to 12.8% in Q4FY25. Interest cost has gone up sharply by 44.8% YoY in Q4FY25, due to an increase in net debt (from Rs 10.8bn in Mar'24 to Rs 12.9bn in Mar'25) for funding the inorganic opportunities and capex incurred for BCTMP pulp line.

Outlook: We project JKPAPER EPS growth at 35.5% CAGR over FY25-FY27E in anticipation of an improvement in EBITDA margin from 12.8% in Q4FY25 to 13.9%/ 18.7% in FY26E/FY27E (vs 10Y avg of 22.9%), as we believe paper price has bottomed out in Q4FY25 and wood cost to moderate from Q4FY26. Furthermore, we believe there is a good upside risk to our estimate in case of a favourable outcome on the ongoing anti-dumping duty investigation on paperboard in future.

Maintain BUY with unchanged TP of Rs 450 per share: as we believe (a) it could undertake large capex via the organic and inorganic routes, due to strong balance sheet (b) its business risk profile has improved due to rising share of fast growing packaging revenue (c) it could likely generate superior return ratio profiles on cost leadership in a commoditised product due to a diversified manufacturing base, efficient operations and low dependency on expensive imported pulp (d) reasonable valuations (trades at 1YF P/BV of 1.0x vs 5Y average of 1.1x). We have slightly tweaked our EBITDA estimates (-0.4%/-3.3% for FY26E/FY27E) based on the current paper & board realisation trend. Our target EV/EBITDA multiple remains unchanged at 6.0x on Mar'27 estimates. 20 May 2025

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Key changes

	Target	Rating				
	<►	<►				
Ticke	r/Price	JKPAPER IN/Rs 353				
Market cap		US\$ 70.1mn				
Free float		50%				
3M ADV		US\$ 1.9mn				
52wk high/low		Rs 639/Rs 276				
Prom	oter/FPI/DII	50%/12%/6%				
- 10111		0070/1270/070	_			

Source: NSE | Price as of 19 May 2025

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	67,181	69,367	73,752
EBITDA (Rs mn)	9,281	9,624	13,771
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	4,143	4,496	7,605
Adj. EPS (Rs)	24.5	26.5	44.9
Consensus EPS (Rs)	24.5	26.5	44.9
Adj. ROAE (%)	7.9	8.1	12.6
Adj. P/E (x)	14.4	13.3	7.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	(0.9)	(0.6)	(0.4)
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(45.1)	7.8	41.8
Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOB	CAPS Research		

Stock performance



Source: NSE





Fig 1 – Quarterly performance – Consolidated

Particulars	Q4FY25	Q4FY24	% chg	Q3FY25	% chg	FY25	FY24	% chg
Total operating income	16895	17186	(1.7)	16320	3.5	67181	66592	0.9
Raw-Material expense	10620	9486	12.0	10326	2.8	40788	34523	18.1
Gross Profit	6275	7700	(18.5)	5994	4.7	26393	32070	(17.7)
Employee expense	1,496	1,421	5.3	1,618	(7.5)	6251	5662	10.4
Power & Fuel	1,265	1,212	4.4	1,323	(4.4)	5162	5421	(4.8)
Other expense	1,348	1,478	(8.8)	1,378	(2.2)	5699	4830	18.0
EBITDA	2167	3590	(39.6)	1675	29.3	9281	16157	(42.6)
D&A	865	731	18.4	827	4.6	3317	3198	3.7
EBIT	1302	2859	(54.5)	848	53.5	5964	12959	(54.0)
Interest cost	501	346	44.8	240	109.0	1777	2081	(14.6)
Non-operating expense/(income)	(251)	(672)	(62.7)	(223)	12.7	(1083)	(2369)	(54.3)
PBT	1052	3185	(67.0)	831	26.5	5270	13247	(60.2)
Tax	280	399	(29.8)	178	56.9	1149	1915	(40.0)
Reported PAT	772	2786	(72.3)	653	18.2	4121	11332	(63.6)
Less: Minority Interests	10	30	(66.9)	(1)	(1080.0)	23	114	(80.0)
PAT after minority interests	762	2756	(72.4)	654	16.5	4098	11218	(63.5)
Adjusted PAT	763	2672	(71.4)	654	16.7	410	1113	(63.2)
As % of net revenues			(bps)		(bps)			(bps)
Gross margin	37.1	44.8	(766)	36.7	41	39.3	48.2	(887)
Employee cost	8.9	8.3	59	9.9	(106)	9.3	8.5	80
Power & Fuel	7.5	7.1	44	8.1	(62)	7.7	8.1	(46)
Other cost	8.0	8.6	(62)	8.4	(47)	8.5	7.3	123
EBITDA margin	12.8	20.9	(806)	10.3	256	13.8	24.3	(1045)
Tax rate	26.6	12.5	1409	21.5	515	21.8	14.5	734
APAT margin	4.5	15.5	(1103)	4.0	51	0.6	1.7	(106)

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 2 – JKPAPER paper and board sales volume was relatively flat on YoY basis

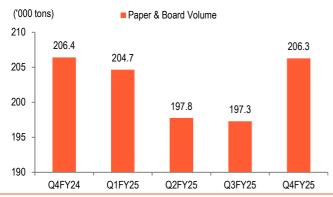
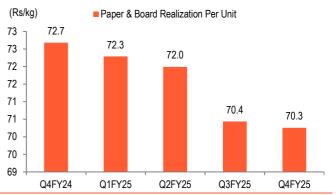


Fig 3 – JKPAPER paper and board realisation was flattish on QoQ basis



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Fig 4 – JKPAPER EBITDA margin improved by 256bps QoQ to 12.8% in Q4FY25 on operating efficiencies

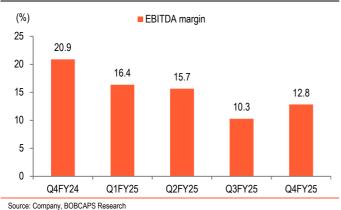
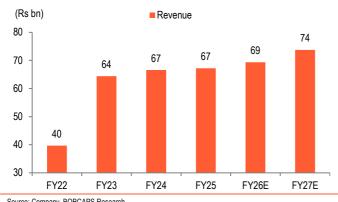


Fig 6 – JKPAPER revenue is projected to grow at a meagre 4.8% CAGR over FY25-FY27E..



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 – ...a gradual recovery in margin from 13.8% in FY25 to 18.7% in FY27E (vs 10Y average of 22.9%)

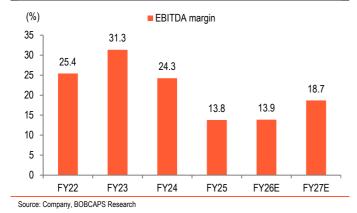


Fig 5 – Net debt has gone up to fund growth capex plan, but likely to come down from FY26

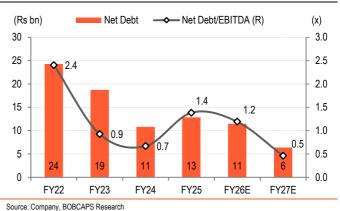
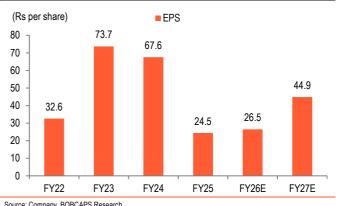
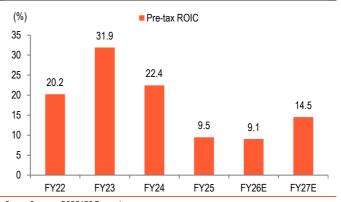


Fig 7 – ..but EPS forecast to grow at 35.5% CAGR over FY25-FY27E on expectation of...



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 9 – JKP pre-tax ROIC is projected to improve from 9.5% in FY25 to 14.5% in FY27



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Valuation Methodology

We maintain BUY with unchanged TP of Rs 450 per share as we believe (a) it could undertake large capex via the organic and inorganic routes (unlike most of its peers) due to strong balance sheet positions and large size of operations

(b) its business risk profile has improved due to rising share of fast-growing packaging revenue (c) it could likely generate superior return ratio profiles due to cost leadership in a commoditised product on a diversified manufacturing base, efficient operations and low dependency on expensive imported pulp (d) reasonable valuations (trades at a 1YF P/BV of 1.0x vs 5Y average of 1.1x).

We have slightly tweaked our EBITDA estimates (-0.4%/-3.3% for FY26E/FY27E) based on the current paper & board realisation trend. Our target EV/EBITDA multiple remains unchanged at 6.0x on Mar'27 estimates.

Consolidated	New	New			Change (%)	
(Rs bn)	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	69.4	73.8	71.6	76.5	(3.2)	(3.6)
EBITDA	9.6	13.8	9.7	14.2	(0.4)	(3.3)
EBITDA margin	13.9	18.7	13.5	18.6	6bps	1bps
Adjusted PAT	4.4	7.5	4.5	8.0	(1.3)	(6.1)
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	26.3	44.4	26.6	47.3	(1.3)	(6.1)

Fig 10 – Revised estimates

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

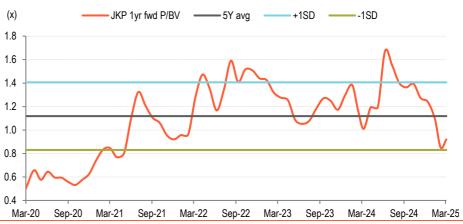


Fig 11 – JKPAPER stock trades at 7.1x on 1YF EV/EBITDA vs 5Y average of 5.7x

Source: Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 12 – Key assumptions

FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
761,000	761,000	761,000	761,000	761,000	761,000
88.3	101.4	104.4	105.9	108.2	108.5
20.8	29.0	2.3	1.4	2.2	0.2
19.4	21.5	(7.9)	(3.4)	(0.1)	5.4
25.4	31.3	24.3	13.8	13.9	18.7
2.4	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.2	0.5
20.2	31.9	22.4	9.5	9.1	14.5
	761,000 88.3 20.8 19.4 25.4 2.4	761,000 761,000 88.3 101.4 20.8 29.0 19.4 21.5 25.4 31.3 2.4 0.9	761,000 761,000 761,000 88.3 101.4 104.4 20.8 29.0 2.3 19.4 21.5 (7.9) 25.4 31.3 24.3 2.4 0.9 0.7	761,000 761,000 761,000 761,000 88.3 101.4 104.4 105.9 20.8 29.0 2.3 1.4 19.4 21.5 (7.9) (3.4) 25.4 31.3 24.3 13.8 2.4 0.9 0.7 1.4	761,000 761,000 761,000 761,000 761,000 88.3 101.4 104.4 105.9 108.2 20.8 29.0 2.3 1.4 2.2 19.4 21.5 (7.9) (3.4) (0.1) 25.4 31.3 24.3 13.8 13.9 2.4 0.9 0.7 1.4 1.2

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Key Risks

Key risks to our estimates:

- Sharp fall in global pulp prices and a strong rupee
- Steep rise in local timber prices
- Persistent pressure of cheap paper and board imports

Sector recommendation snapshot

Company	Ticker	Market Cap (US\$ bn)	Price (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating			
JK Paper	JKPAPER IN	0.1	353	450	BUY			
Source: POPCADE Desearch NEE Drive on of 40 May 2025								

Source: BOBCAPS Research, NSE | Price as of 19 May 2025



Financials

Income Statement

income otatement					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Total revenue	66,592	67,181	69,367	73,752	77,419
EBITDA	16,157	9,281	9,624	13,771	14,435
Depreciation	3,101	3,317	3,550	3,821	4,058
EBIT	13,056	5,964	6,074	9,949	10,377
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(2,081)	(1,777)	(1,097)	(841)	(585)
Other inc./(exp.)	2,272	1,082	998	998	998
Exceptional items	1	0	0	0	0
EBT	13,247	5,269	5,976	10,107	10,790
Income taxes	1,915	1,149	1,504	2,544	2,716
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	114	23	25	42	45
Reported net profit	11,446	4,143	4,496	7,605	8,119
Adjustments	1	0	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	11,447	4,143	4,496	7,605	8,119

Balance Sheet

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Accounts payables	6,777	7,537	7,004	7,447	7,817
Other current liabilities	2,906	2,924	2,924	2,924	2,924
Provisions	126	119	123	130	137
Debt funds	21,253	17,497	13,841	10,185	6,529
Other liabilities	10,097	10,845	10,845	10,845	10,845
Equity capital	1,694	1,694	1,694	1,694	1,694
Reserves & surplus	49,001	52,379	55,809	61,806	67,972
Shareholders' fund	50,695	54,073	57,503	63,500	69,666
Total liab. and equities	91,854	92,995	92,240	95,031	97,918
Cash and cash eq.	10,432	4,644	2,361	3,800	4,582
Accounts receivables	3,613	4,322	3,801	4,041	4,242
Inventories	9,416	12,492	11,422	11,027	11,705
Other current assets	7,115	7,162	7,305	7,591	7,830
Investments	1,886	1,865	1,865	1,865	1,865
Net fixed assets	54,890	54,914	57,865	59,043	59,986
CWIP	710	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Intangible assets	3,614	7,725	7,725	7,725	7,725
Deferred tax assets, net	0	88	88	88	88
Other assets	1,602	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166
Total assets	93,278	95,476	94,697	97,445	1,00,287

Cash Flows

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Cash flow from operations	12,382	5,803	9,063	11,588	11,022
Capital expenditures	(3,201)	(7,842)	(6,500)	(5,000)	(5,000)
Change in investments	(496)	410	0	0	0
Other investing cash flows	2,271	1,082	998	998	998
Cash flow from investing	(1,426)	(6,351)	(5,502)	(4,002)	(4,002)
Equities issued/Others	0	0	0	0	0
Debt raised/repaid	(6,132)	(3,756)	(3,656)	(3,656)	(3,656)
Interest expenses	(2,081)	(1,777)	(1,097)	(841)	(585)
Dividends paid	(1,440)	(847)	(1,016)	(1,525)	(1,863)
Other financing cash flows	579	1,161	(50)	(84)	(90)
Cash flow from financing	(9,073)	(5,219)	(5,819)	(6,106)	(6,194)
Chg in cash & cash eq.	1,882	(5,767)	(2,258)	1,481	827
Closing cash & cash eq.	10,547	4,665	2,386	3,842	4,627

Per Share FY24A FY25A Y/E 31 Mar (Rs) FY26E FY27E FY28E Reported EPS 67.6 24.5 26.5 44.9 47.9 Adjusted EPS 67.6 24.5 26.5 44.9 47.9 Dividend per share 8.5 5.0 6.0 9.0 11.0 Book value per share 299.3 319.2 339.5 374.9 411.3 Valuations Ratios Y/E 31 Mar (x) FY24A FY25A FY26E FY27E FY28E EV/Sales (0.1) 0.0 (0.2) (0.1) (0.1) EV/EBITDA (1.0) (0.9) (0.6) (0.4) (0.2) Adjusted P/E 5.2 14.4 13.3 7.9 7.4 P/BV 1.2 1.1 1.0 0.9 0.9 **DuPont Analysis** Y/E 31 Mar (%) FY24A FY25A FY26E FY27E FY28E Tax burden (Net profit/PBT) 86.4 78.6 75.2 75.2 75.2 Interest burden (PBT/EBIT) 101.5 88.3 98.4 101.6 104.0 EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue) 19.6 8.9 8.8 13.5 13.4 Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA) 70.4 71.4 73.3 75.7 77.2 Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity) 2.0 1.8 1.7 1.6 1.5 Adjusted ROAE 25.1 7.9 8.1 12.6 12.2

Y/E 31 Mar	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
YoY growth (%)					
Revenue	3.5	0.9	3.3	6.3	5.0
EBITDA	(19.9)	(42.6)	3.7	43.1	4.8
Adjusted EPS	(16.8)	(45.1)	7.8	41.8	6.6
Profitability & Return ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	24.3	13.8	13.9	18.7	18.6
EBIT margin	19.6	8.9	8.8	13.5	13.4
Adjusted profit margin	17.2	6.2	6.5	10.3	10.5
Adjusted ROAE	25.1	7.9	8.1	12.6	12.2
ROCE	21.3	9.8	9.9	14.9	14.9
Working capital days (days)					
Receivables	20	23	20	20	20
Inventory	52	68	60	55	55
Payables	37	41	37	37	37
Ratios (x)					
Gross asset turnover	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Current ratio	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8
Net interest coverage ratio	6.3	3.4	5.5	11.8	17.7
Adjusted debt/equity	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0

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



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 $BUY-\mbox{Expected return}>+15\%$

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): JK PAPER (JKPAPER IN)



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

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