



PRINCE PIPES & FITTINGS

Building Materials

17 May 2024

Mixed Q4FY24; positive demand outlook

- Beats our revenue estimate by 3% on strong volume, but misses our EBITDA estimate by 6% on pricing pressure in the sector
- Management aims to grow volume at 15% with EBITDA margin of 12-14% over the next 2-3 years
- Maintain HOLD as stock appears to be fully valued; raise TP by 15% to Rs 750 on roll forward of valuation from Sep'25 to Mar'26

Mixed Q4FY24: PRINCPIP beats our revenue estimate by 3.0% due to better-thanexpected volume (+16.1% vs 13.0% estimate), but misses our EBITDA estimate by 5.7% due to sharper-than-expected contraction in gross margin (-81 bps QoQ to 29.4% vs 30.0% estimate) on account of the rise in competitive intensity in the sector. EBITDA margin improved by 23bps QoQ to 12.5% in Q4FY24 due to operating leverage benefit. Overall, PRINCPIP revenue/EBITDA/APAT fell by 3.2%/37.8%/41.9% YoY in Q4FY24.

Key highlights: The company reported healthy volume growth (16.1% YoY; 5Y CAGR: +5.4%) in Q4FY24 due to good demand seen across applications as well as benefit of price rationalisation exercise implemented in Q3FY24. Net cash position fell from Rs 560mn in Dec'23 to Rs 10mn in Mar'24 due to a sharp increase in receivables as well as decrease in payables.

Guidance: PRINCPIP has guided for healthy volume growth of 15% with EBITDA margin of 12-14% for the next 2-3 years. The debtor period rose from 49 days in Q4FY23 to 71 in Q4FY24, but management targets to bring it down to 50-55 days over the next two quarters. The Bihar greenfield pipe project (with 48ktpa capacity) is expected to be completed by Q4FY24 at a cost of Rs 2.2bn (of which Rs 0.7bn was spent in FY24). The company plans to further spend Rs 0.8bn-1.0bn for debottlenecking and maintenance capex for both pipe and bathware in FY25.

Maintain HOLD, raise TP by 15% to Rs 750: We maintain our HOLD rating on the stock as we believe future earnings growth prospects (EPS to grow at a healthy 27.5% CAGR over FY24-FY26 over a weak base) is quite well captured in the current valuations (trades at 34.1x on 1Y forward P/E vs 5Y average P/E of 32.2x). We have slightly tweaked our EPS estimates (+0.3%/-0.9% for FY25/FY26) based on the Q4FY24 result, but we have increased our TP to Rs 750 (Rs 650 earlier) due to the roll forward of our valuation from Sep'25 to Mar'26. Our target P/E remains at 30x.

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Key changes

	Target	Rating
	A	
Ticke	r/Price	PRINCPIP IN/Rs 669
Marke	et cap	US\$ 899.6mn
Free	float	39%
3M A	DV	US\$ 1.5mn
52wk	high/low	Rs 776/Rs 521
Prom	oter/FPI/DII	61%/5%/19%

Source: NSE | Price as of 17 May 2024

Key financials

29,038 3,631 2,043	34,324 4,611 2,751
2,043	2,751
,	,
40.5	
18.5	24.9
20.5	25.4
12.6	15.2
36.2	26.9
20.6	15.9
	34.7

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance



Source: NSE



PRINCE PIPES & FITTINGS

Fig 1 – Quarterly performance – Standalone

Particulars (Rs mn)	Q4FY24	Q4FY23	YoY (%)	Q3FY24	QoQ (%)	FY24	FY23	YoY (%)
Operating income	7,401	7,644	(3.2)	6,186	19.6	25,687	27,109	(5.2)
Raw-Material expense	5,224	5,121	2.0	4,316	21.0	18,193	20,922	(13.0)
Gross Profit	2,177	2,523	(13.7)	1,870	16.4	7,494	6,187	21.1
Employee expense	379	309	22.8	373	1.8	1,477	1,161	27.3
Other expense	876	731	19.8	741	18.2	2,943	2,523	16.7
EBITDA	923	1,483	(37.8)	757	21.9	3,074	2,503	22.8
D&A	239	211	13.1	229	4.4	912	830	9.8
EBIT	684	1,272	(46.3)	528	29.6	2,162	1,673	29.3
Interest cost	14	28	(52.1)	27	(50.1)	65	110	(41.0)
Other income	53	34	55.8	30	76.7	340	86	297.9
PBT	723	1,278	(43.4)	531	36.3	2,438	1,648	47.9
Tax	177	337	(47.5)	154	14.7	612	434	41.0
Reported PAT	546	941	(41.9)	376	45.2	1,825	1,214	50.3
Adjusted PAT	546	941	(41.9)	376	45.2	1,782	1,214	46.8
As % of net revenues			(bps)		(bps)			(bps)
Gross margin	29.4	33.0	(359)	30.2	(81)	29.2	22.8	635
Employee cost	5.1	4.0	108	6.0	(90)	5.7	4.3	147
Other cost	11.8	9.6	227	12.0	(15)	11.5	9.3	215
EBITDA margin	12.5	19.4	(694)	12.2	23	12.0	9.2	273
Tax rate	24.4	26.4	(191)	29.1	(462)	25.1	26.3	(122)
APAT margin	7.4	12.3	(493)	6.1	130	6.9	4.5	246

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 2 – Key operating metrics

Particulars	Q4FY24	Q4FY23	YoY (%)	Q3FY24	QoQ (%)	FY24	FY23	YoY (%)
Sales Volumes (KTPA)	51	44	16.1	43	20.6	173	158	9.6
Realization (Rs/kg)	144	172	(16.6)	145	(0.8)	149	172	(13.5)
EBITDA per unit (Rs/kg)	17.9	33.5	(46.4)	17.7	1.1	17.8	15.9	12.1
Inventory (days)	53	50	-	74	-	71	54	-
Debtor (days)	71	49	-	72	-	69	46	-
Creditor (days)	30	38	-	55	-	53	50	-
Operating cycle (days)	94	61	-	91	-	87	49	-

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

BOBCAPS



Earnings call highlights

- **PVC resin:** Prices are expected to remain range bound in near future.
- Pipe demand scenario: The company has observed good pipe demand across applications in Q4FY24 and the positive demand momentum is expected to be maintained over the next two years. Management expects a strong agri pipe demand in Q1FY25 due to good monsoon, rising rural income, low and stable resin prices. Management believes the general election is not likely to impact the company's pipe volume in Q1FY25 due to low share of infra pipe (at 4%).
- **Guidance:** Management targets to grow its pipe volume at 15% with EBITDA margin of 12-14% over the next 2-3 years.
- Market share: PRINCPIP corrected its prices in Q3FY24, resulting in good volume growth in Q4FY24.
- Product mix: Plumbing/SWR (soil waste rain) accounts for 65% of total pipe volume, followed by agri (at 30%), infra (4%) and water tank (1%).
- Ad spend as a proportion of sales went up from 1.5% in FY23 to 2.1% in FY24.
- Working capital: PRINCPIP debtor period rose from 49 days in Q4FY23 to 71 in Q4FY24, but the company targets to reduce its collection period gradually to 50-55 days over the next two quarters.
- Capex: Management has guided for capex of Rs 0.8bn-1.0bn for debottlenecking and maintenance capex in FY25 respectively (excludes Bihar project). The Bihar pipe project (capacity of 48ktpa) is expected to be operational by Q4FY24 at a cost of Rs 2.2bn (of which Rs 0.7bn was spent in FY23).
- Bathware: The bathware segment clocked revenue of Rs 40mn in Q4FY24 and Rs 100mn in FY24. It has launched products in the northern and western regions of India and plans to enter the southern and eastern markets by Sep'24. Management expects the bathware segment to break even over the next 18 months.

Fig 3 – PRINCPIP's volumes grew by 16.1% YoY and 5.4% on a 5Y CAGR basis in Q4FY24

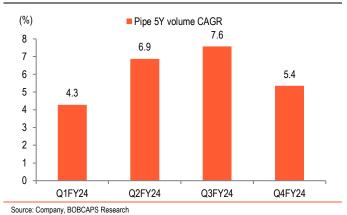
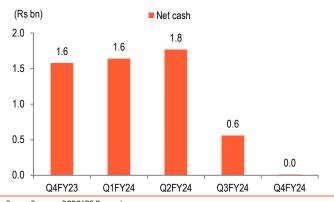


Fig 5 - Net cash position fell from Rs 0.6bn in Dec'23 to Rs 10mn in Mar'24...



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 7 – PRINCPIP's EPS is forecast to grow at 27.5% CAGR over FY24-FY26E

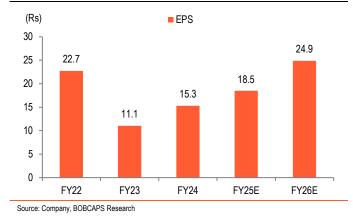
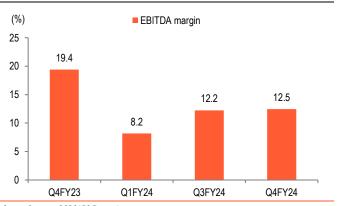
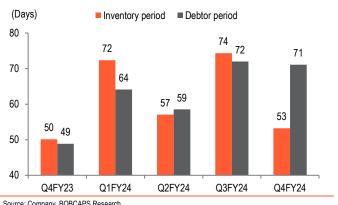


Fig 4 – Gross margin fell by 81bps QoQ, but EBITDA margin improved by 23bps QoQ on operating leverage



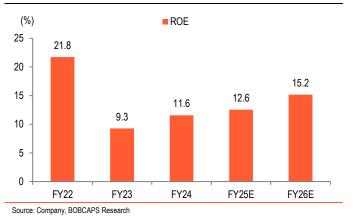
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – ... due to sharp increase in receivables and reduction in trade payables



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 – ROE is projected to improve from 11.6% in FY24 to 15.2% in FY26E







Valuation methodology

We maintain our HOLD rating on the stock as we believe the future earnings growth prospects (EPS to grow at a healthy 27.5% CAGR over FY24-FY26 over a weak base) is quite well captured in the current valuations (trades at 34.1x on 1Y forward P/E vs 5Y average P/E of 32.2x).

We have slightly tweaked our EPS estimates (+0.3%/-0.9% for FY25/FY26) based on Q4FY24 result, but we have increased our TP to Rs 750 (Rs 650 earlier) due to the roll forward of our valuation from Sep'25 to Mar'26. Our target P/E remains at 30x.

Fig 9 – Revised estimates

Standalana (Da ma)	New	,	Old		Change	e (%)
Standalone (Rs mn)	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E
Operating income	29,038	34,324	28,773	33,717	0.9	1.8
EBITDA	3,631	4,611	3,681	4,788	(1.4)	(3.7)
EBITDA Margin (%)	12.5	13.4	12.8	14.2	(29bps)	(77bps)
Adjusted PAT	2,043	2,751	2,036	2,777	0.3	(0.9)
EPS (Rs)	18.5	24.9	18.4	25.1	0.3	(0.9)
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Source: BOBCAPS Research

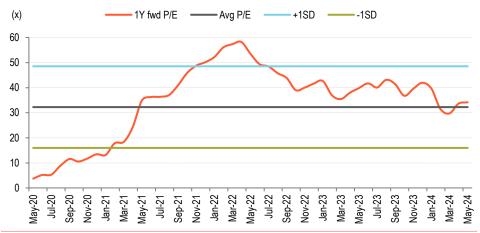


Fig 10 – Trading at 34.1x on 1Y forward P/E vs 5Y average of 32.2x

Source: Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 11 – Ke	y assumptions
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Particulars	FY21A	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Sales Volume growth (%)	4.1	0.5	13.4	9.6	15.0	15.0
Realisation growth (%)	21.6	27.6	(10.1)	(13.5)	(1.7)	2.8
EBITDA per unit (Rs/kg)	26.6	30.1	16.0	17.8	18.3	20.2
Pre-tax ROIC (%)	37.3	32.5	13.4	16.1	16.0	18.2

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Key risks

- Market share gains in plastic pipes and a sharp improvement in return ratios would be key upside risks to our estimates.
- Increased exposure to group companies and significant cost/time overruns in the Bihar greenfield project are key downside risks.

Sector recommendation snapshot

Company	Ticker	Market Cap (US\$ bn)	Price (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating
Apollo Pipes	APOLP IN	0.3	621	600	SELL
Astral	ASTRA IN	7.5	2,303	2,000	HOLD
Century Plyboards	CPBI IN	1.8	679	700	HOLD
Cera Sanitaryware	CRS IN	1.1	7,143	7,700	HOLD
Finolex Industries	FNXP IN	2.2	296	265	HOLD
Greenlam Industries	GRLM IN	0.9	591	500	HOLD
Greenpanel Industries	GREENP IN	0.4	297	340	HOLD
Greenply Industries	MTLM IN	0.4	246	300	BUY
Hindware Home Innovation	HINDWARE IN	0.3	395	600	BUY
Kajaria Ceramics	KJC IN	2.5	1,272	1,400	BUY
Prince Pipes & Fittings	PRINCPIP IN	0.9	669	750	HOLD
Somany Ceramics	SOMC IN	0.4	771	900	BUY
Supreme Industries	SI IN	8.7	5,613	4,650	HOLD
Source: BOBCARS Research NSE Brice of	of 17 Mov 2024				

Source: BOBCAPS Research, NSE | Price as of 17 May 2024



Financials

Income Statement					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue	26,568	27,109	25,687	29,038	34,324
EBITDA	4,188	2,517	3,074	3,631	4,611
Depreciation	703	830	912	1,003	1,072
EBIT	3,485	1,687	2,162	2,627	3,539
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(139)	(110)	(65)	(54)	(54)
Other inc./(exp.)	55	86	161	157	192
Exceptional items	32	14	0	0	0
EBT	3,369	1,648	2,258	2,730	3,676
Income taxes	875	434	613	687	925
Extraordinary items	0	0	(179)	0	0
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	0	0	0	0	0
Reported net profit	2,494	1,214	1,825	2,043	2,751
Adjustments	18	9	(133)	0	0
Adjusted net profit	2,512	1,223	1,692	2,043	2,751

Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Accounts payables	3,986	3,202	2,491	2,816	3,329
Other current liabilities	980	794	1,659	1,659	1,659
Provisions	22	20	26	30	35
Debt funds	1,500	581	1,144	1,269	1,466
Other liabilities	250	305	467	467	467
Equity capital	1,106	1,106	1,106	1,106	1,106
Reserves & surplus	11,547	12,534	14,338	15,884	18,082
Shareholders' fund	12,653	13,640	15,444	16,989	19,187
Total liab. and equities	19,390	18,542	21,232	23,230	26,143
Cash and cash eq.	687	2,161	1,156	97	(755)
Accounts receivables	4,346	4,150	5,849	6,612	7,815
Inventories	6,188	4,256	4,379	4,786	5,698
Other current assets	1,046	684	1,081	1,222	1,444
Investments	17	3	3	3	3
Net fixed assets	6,415	6,750	7,736	9,483	10,911
CWIP	226	190	353	353	353
Intangible assets	41	101	240	240	240
Deferred tax assets, net	0	0	0	0	0
Other assets	425	246	435	435	435
Total assets	19,390	18,542	21,232	23,230	26,143

Cash Flows

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Cash flow from operations	(185)	3,645	526	1,961	1,867
Capital expenditures	(1,680)	(1,000)	(2,349)	(2,750)	(2,500)
Change in investments	(2)	14	0	0	0
Other investing cash flows	22	72	340	157	192
Cash flow from investing	(1)	(19)	0	0	0
Equities issued/Others	5	0	0	0	0
Debt raised/repaid	648	(919)	563	125	197
Interest expenses	(139)	(110)	(65)	(54)	(54)
Dividends paid	(387)	0	(111)	(498)	(553)
Other financing cash flows	105	(227)	90	0	0
Cash flow from financing	233	(1,256)	478	(427)	(410)
Chg in cash & cash eq.	47	2,370	1,004	1,534	1,457
Closing cash & cash eq.	687	2,161	1,156	97	(755)

Per Share					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26
Reported EPS	22.6	11.0	16.5	18.5	24.
Adjusted EPS	22.7	11.1	15.3	18.5	24.9
Dividend per share	3.5	0.0	1.0	4.5	5.
Book value per share	114.4	123.4	139.7	153.7	173.
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26
EV/Sales	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.
EV/EBITDA	17.8	29.5	24.2	20.6	15.
Adjusted P/E	29.4	60.5	43.7	36.2	26.
P/BV	5.8	5.4	4.8	4.4	3.
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	74.6	74.2	74.9	74.8	74.
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	96.7	97.7	104.4	103.9	103.
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	13.1	6.2	8.4	9.0	10.
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	137.0	146.2	121.0	125.0	131.
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.
Adjusted ROAE	21.8	9.3	11.6	12.6	15.
Ratio Analysis					
	EV22A	EV23A	EV24A	EV25E	EV26
Y/E 31 Mar	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%)					
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue	28.3	2.0	(5.2)	13.0	18.
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue EBITDA	28.3 13.9	2.0 (39.9)	(5.2) 22.1	13.0 18.1	18. 27.
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue EBITDA Adjusted EPS	28.3 13.9 10.4	2.0	(5.2)	13.0	18. 27.
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue EBITDA Adjusted EPS Profitability & Return ratios (%)	28.3 13.9 10.4	2.0 (39.9) (51.3)	(5.2) 22.1 38.3	13.0 18.1 20.7	18. 27. 34.
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue EBITDA Adjusted EPS Profitability & Return ratios (%) EBITDA margin	28.3 13.9 10.4 15.8	2.0 (39.9) (51.3) 9.3	(5.2) 22.1 38.3 12.0	13.0 18.1 20.7 12.5	18. 27. 34. 13.
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Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue EBITDA Adjusted EPS Profitability & Return ratios (%) EBITDA margin EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE	28.3 13.9 10.4 15.8 13.1 9.5 21.8	2.0 (39.9) (51.3) 9.3 6.2 4.5 9.3	(5.2) 22.1 38.3 12.0 8.4 6.6 11.6	13.0 18.1 20.7 12.5 9.0 7.0 12.6	18. 27. 34. 13. 10. 8. 15.
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue EBITDA Adjusted EPS Profitability & Return ratios (%) EBITDA margin EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE	28.3 13.9 10.4 15.8 13.1 9.5	2.0 (39.9) (51.3) 9.3 6.2 4.5	(5.2) 22.1 38.3 12.0 8.4 6.6	13.0 18.1 20.7 12.5 9.0 7.0	18. 27. 34. 13. 10. 8. 15.
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue EBITDA Adjusted EPS Profitability & Return ratios (%) EBITDA margin EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE Working capital days (days)	28.3 13.9 10.4 15.8 13.1 9.5 21.8 25.0	2.0 (39.9) (51.3) 9.3 6.2 4.5 9.3 12.5	(5.2) 22.1 38.3 12.0 8.4 6.6 11.6 14.0	13.0 18.1 20.7 12.5 9.0 7.0 12.6 15.2	18. 27. 34. 13. 10. 8. 15. 18.
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue EBITDA Adjusted EPS Profitability & Return ratios (%) EBITDA margin EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE Working capital days (days) Receivables	28.3 13.9 10.4 15.8 13.1 9.5 21.8 25.0 60	2.0 (39.9) (51.3) 9.3 6.2 4.5 9.3 12.5 56	(5.2) 22.1 38.3 12.0 8.4 6.6 11.6 14.0 83	13.0 18.1 20.7 12.5 9.0 7.0 12.6 15.2 83	18. 27. 34. 13. 10. 8. 15. 18. 8.
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue EBITDA Adjusted EPS Profitability & Return ratios (%) EBITDA margin EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE Working capital days (days) Receivables Inventory	28.3 13.9 10.4 15.8 13.1 9.5 21.8 25.0 60 85	2.0 (39.9) (51.3) 9.3 6.2 4.5 9.3 12.5 56 57	(5.2) 22.1 38.3 12.0 8.4 6.6 11.6 14.0 83 62	13.0 18.1 20.7 12.5 9.0 7.0 12.6 15.2 83 60	18. 27. 34. 13. 10. 8. 15. 18. 8. 8. 6.
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Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue EBITDA Adjusted EPS Profitability & Return ratios (%) EBITDA margin EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE Working capital days (days) Receivables Inventory Payables Ratios (x) Gross asset turnover	28.3 13.9 10.4 15.8 13.1 9.5 21.8 25.0 60 85 55 55 3.3	2.0 (39.9) (51.3) 9.3 6.2 4.5 9.3 12.5 56 57 43 2.8	(5.2) 22.1 38.3 12.0 8.4 6.6 11.6 14.0 83 62 35 2.3	13.0 18.1 20.7 12.5 9.0 7.0 12.6 15.2 83 60 35 2.2	18. 27. 34. 13. 10. 8. 15. 18. 8 6 33 2.
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%) Revenue EBITDA Adjusted EPS Profitability & Return ratios (%) EBITDA margin EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE Working capital days (days) Receivables Inventory Payables Ratios (x)	28.3 13.9 10.4 15.8 13.1 9.5 21.8 25.0 60 85 55	2.0 (39.9) (51.3) 9.3 6.2 4.5 9.3 12.5 56 57 43	(5.2) 22.1 38.3 12.0 8.4 6.6 11.6 14.0 83 62 35	13.0 18.1 20.7 12.5 9.0 7.0 12.6 15.2 83 60 35	FY26 18. 27. 34. 13. 10. 8. 15. 18. 8 6 6 3 3 2. 2. 2. 2. 65.

Adjusted debt/equity 0.1 (0.1) Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Note: TA = Total Assets



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BUY – Expected return >+15%

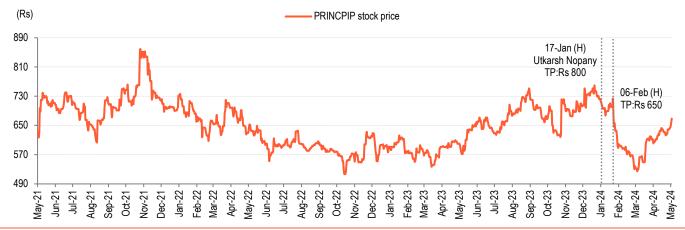
HOLD – Expected return from -6% to +15%

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): PRINCE PIPES & FITTINGS (PRINCPIP IN)



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

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