

# PRINCE PIPES

## COMPANY UPDATE

### KEY DATA

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Rating</b>                    | <b>REDUCE</b>  |
| Sector relative                  | Underperformer |
| Price (INR)                      | 338            |
| 12 month price target (INR)      | 257            |
| 52 Week High/Low                 | 587/210        |
| Market cap (INR bn/USD bn)       | 37/0.4         |
| Free float (%)                   | 36.8           |
| Avg. daily value traded (INR mn) | 137.3          |

### SHAREHOLDING PATTERN

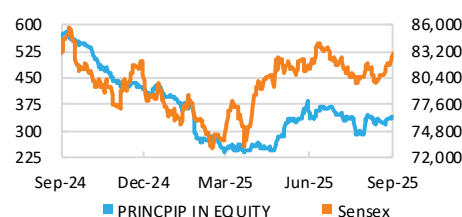
|          | Jun-25 | Mar-25 | Dec-24 |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Promoter | 60.94% | 60.94% | 60.94% |
| FII      | 3.75%  | 6.19%  | 6.07%  |
| DII      | 15.73% | 14.97% | 16.44% |
| Pledge   |        |        |        |

### FINANCIALS

(INR mn)

| Year to March      | FY25A  | FY26E  | FY27E  | FY28E  |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Revenue            | 25,239 | 28,411 | 30,461 | 32,411 |
| EBITDA             | 1,618  | 2,864  | 3,238  | 3,469  |
| Adjusted profit    | 447    | 1,206  | 1,467  | 1,650  |
| Diluted EPS (INR)  | 4.0    | 10.9   | 13.3   | 14.9   |
| EPS growth (%)     | (72.8) | 169.7  | 21.6   | 12.5   |
| RoAE (%)           | 2.9    | 7.4    | 8.5    | 8.9    |
| P/E (x)            | 83.0   | 30.8   | 25.3   | 22.5   |
| EV/EBITDA (x)      | 44.5   | 24.0   | 20.7   | 18.8   |
| Dividend yield (%) | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |

### PRICE PERFORMANCE



## Costly stockpiles amid demand dearth

We recently interacted with PPFL's CFO Mr Anand Gupta. Highlights: i) ADD is likely to take effect during October 15–30. ii) Traders have been undercutting RIL's PVC prices to liquidate excess inventory. iii) High single-digit volume growth is expected in FY26 (versus high single-to-low double digits earlier). iv) No inventory gains expected in Q2FY26E as price hikes shall negate losses from existing high-cost inventory. v) The Bihar plant is expected to hit utilisation of 60–65% in FY27E. vi) Bathware to break even at revenue of INR800mn–1bn by FY27E.

With PPFL continuing to face sectoral headwinds, weak demand and deteriorating return ratios (down to single digits), we retain 'REDUCE' with a TP of INR257 (earlier INR251) on a rollover to 18x Q2FY28E EPS.

### Key takeaways

**Demand:** Demand continues to be weak; Prince expects sales to be lower in the northeast due to a bunch of holidays in the end of September.

**Guidance:** Volumes are expected to grow in high single digits for FY26; high/mid-double digit volume growth looks difficult. The slowdown in Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has not been a hindrance for Prince as it derives only 5–7% of its sales from the JJM.

**Inventory gains/losses:** Management does not expect any inventory losses in Q2FY26 as price hikes undertaken by the company shall negate any inventory gains in the quarter as losses on account of high-cost inventory.

**ADD:** While a notification for ADD has already been issued, its implementation is pending; the deadline is mid-November (90 days from notification). Management, however, expects ADD to be rolled out between October 15 and October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**PVC pricing:** While RIL is currently quoting INR74.5/kg, it has also implemented price protection—a sign of weaker-than-expected demand. This is also very clear from the fact that many traders have been selling PVC resins at a discount in order to liquidate excess inventory to free up working capital.

**Bihar:** With the first phase (25,000 tons) of Bihar capacity commissioned towards the end of Q4FY25, phase two is likely to be commissioned by the end of Q2FY26, taking the plant's capacity to ~50,000 tons. While utilisation is currently low, management expects the plant to hit utilisation of 60–65% in FY27E.

**Bathware:** Management expects the segment to break even once it hits revenue of INR800mn–1,000mn by FY27E. An expenditure of INR430mn shall be incurred over the next three months as part of the second phase of the asset purchase agreement for Aquel.

**Project sales:** The company's project sales currently make up 22% of its overall, and management is working on building a better project mix given better cross-selling opportunities the segment presents.

## Financial Statements

### Income Statement (INR mn)

| Year to March          | FY25A  | FY26E  | FY27E  | FY28E  |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total operating income | 25,239 | 28,411 | 30,461 | 32,411 |
| Gross profit           | 6,400  | 8,381  | 9,138  | 9,723  |
| Employee costs         | 1,742  | 2,021  | 2,142  | 2,270  |
| Other expenses         | 3,040  | 3,496  | 3,758  | 3,984  |
| EBITDA                 | 1,618  | 2,864  | 3,238  | 3,469  |
| Depreciation           | 1,070  | 1,238  | 1,281  | 1,324  |
| Less: Interest expense | 97     | 190    | 155    | 135    |
| Add: Other income      | 137    | 151    | 166    | 191    |
| Profit before tax      | 588    | 1,587  | 1,969  | 2,201  |
| Prov for tax           | 141    | 381    | 502    | 551    |
| Less: Other adj        | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Reported profit        | 447    | 1,206  | 1,467  | 1,650  |
| Less: Excp.item (net)  | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Adjusted profit        | 447    | 1,206  | 1,467  | 1,650  |
| Diluted shares o/s     | 111    | 111    | 111    | 111    |
| Adjusted diluted EPS   | 4.0    | 10.9   | 13.3   | 14.9   |
| DPS (INR)              | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Tax rate (%)           | 24.0   | 24.0   | 25.5   | 25.0   |

### Important Ratios (%)

| Year to March          | FY25A   | FY26E | FY27E | FY28E |
|------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Volume Growth (%)      | 2.6     | 9.0   | 6.0   | 6.0   |
| Realisation Growth     | (4.2)   | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Capex (INR mn)         | 2,568.1 | 600.0 | 600.0 | 600.0 |
| EBITDA margin (%)      | 6.4     | 10.1  | 10.6  | 10.7  |
| Net profit margin (%)  | 1.8     | 4.2   | 4.8   | 5.1   |
| Revenue growth (% YoY) | (1.7)   | 12.6  | 7.2   | 6.4   |
| EBITDA growth (% YoY)  | (47.4)  | 77.1  | 13.0  | 7.1   |
| Adj. profit growth (%) | (72.8)  | 169.7 | 21.6  | 12.5  |

### Assumptions (%)

| Year to March          | FY25A   | FY26E    | FY27E    | FY28E    |
|------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| GDP (YoY %)            | 6.5     | 6.5      | 6.5      | 6.5      |
| Repo rate (%)          | 5.3     | 5.3      | 5.3      | 5.3      |
| USD/INR (average)      | 82.0    | 82.0     | 82.0     | 82.0     |
| Gross margins          | 25.4    | 29.5     | 30.0     | 30.0     |
| EBITDA/MT              | 9,129.6 | 14,500.0 | 16,000.0 | 16,000.0 |
| Depre % of gross block | 6.9     | 7.2      | 7.2      | 7.2      |
| Interest % of debt     | 5.1     | 8.0      | 8.0      | 8.5      |

### Valuation Metrics

| Year to March      | FY25A | FY26E | FY27E | FY28E |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Diluted P/E (x)    | 83.0  | 30.8  | 25.3  | 22.5  |
| Price/BV (x)       | 2.4   | 2.2   | 2.1   | 1.9   |
| EV/EBITDA (x)      | 44.5  | 24.0  | 20.7  | 18.8  |
| Dividend yield (%) | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |

Source: Company and Nuvama estimates

### Balance Sheet (INR mn)

| Year to March        | FY25A  | FY26E  | FY27E  | FY28E  |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Share capital        | 1,106  | 1,106  | 1,106  | 1,106  |
| Reserves             | 14,659 | 15,525 | 16,753 | 18,130 |
| Shareholders funds   | 15,764 | 16,631 | 17,859 | 19,236 |
| Minority interest    | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Borrowings           | 2,641  | 2,120  | 1,755  | 1,430  |
| Trade payables       | 2,611  | 3,018  | 3,213  | 3,419  |
| Other liabs & prov   | 1,895  | 1,895  | 1,895  | 1,895  |
| Total liabilities    | 23,194 | 23,946 | 25,004 | 26,262 |
| Net block            | 9,537  | 8,899  | 8,218  | 7,494  |
| Intangible assets    | 69     | 69     | 69     | 69     |
| Capital WIP          | 198    | 198    | 198    | 198    |
| Total fixed assets   | 9,803  | 9,165  | 8,485  | 7,760  |
| Non current inv      | 270    | 270    | 270    | 270    |
| Cash/cash equivalent | 830    | 3,485  | 4,894  | 6,498  |
| Sundry debtors       | 4,229  | 4,670  | 5,007  | 5,417  |
| Loans & advances     | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Other assets         | 7,531  | 5,826  | 5,818  | 5,788  |
| Total assets         | 23,194 | 23,946 | 25,004 | 26,262 |

### Free Cash Flow (INR mn)

| Year to March         | FY25A   | FY26E | FY27E | FY28E |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Reported profit       | 447     | 1,206 | 1,467 | 1,650 |
| Add: Depreciation     | 1,070   | 1,238 | 1,281 | 1,324 |
| Interest (net of tax) | 65      | 128   | 104   | 91    |
| Others                | (715)   | 3,342 | (178) | (299) |
| Less: Changes in WC   | (322)   | 1,671 | (134) | (173) |
| Operating cash flow   | 1,189   | 4,242 | 2,807 | 2,939 |
| Less: Capex           | (2,554) | (600) | (600) | (600) |
| Free cash flow        | (1,364) | 3,642 | 2,207 | 2,339 |

### Key Ratios

| Year to March         | FY25A | FY26E | FY27E | FY28E |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| RoE (%)               | 2.9   | 7.4   | 8.5   | 8.9   |
| RoCE (%)              | 3.9   | 9.6   | 11.1  | 11.6  |
| Inventory days        | 101   | 96    | 75    | 70    |
| Receivable days       | 73    | 57    | 58    | 59    |
| Payable days          | 49    | 51    | 53    | 53    |
| Working cap (% sales) | 29.5  | 20.3  | 19.4  | 18.8  |
| Gross debt/equity (x) | 0.2   | 0.1   | 0.1   | 0.1   |
| Net debt/equity (x)   | 0.1   | (0.1) | (0.2) | (0.3) |
| Interest coverage (x) | 5.7   | 8.5   | 12.6  | 15.8  |

### Valuation Drivers

| Year to March     | FY25A  | FY26E | FY27E | FY28E |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| EPS growth (%)    | (72.8) | 169.7 | 21.6  | 12.5  |
| RoE (%)           | 2.9    | 7.4   | 8.5   | 8.9   |
| EBITDA growth (%) | (47.4) | 77.1  | 13.0  | 7.1   |
| Payout ratio (%)  | 0      | 0     | 0     | 0     |

## Other key takeaways

**Global PVC pricing:** China's base price at USD585–590/ton remain under pressure. In the case of an ADD implementation, considering an average ADD of USD140/ton, Chinese PVC prices shall rise to USD760/ton, implying domestic prices of INR ~76/kg.

**CPVC resin:** Prince does not plan to venture into CPVC resin manufacturing as it believes CPVC resins should be easily available in the backdrop of significant additions for CPVC resins across the industry.

**CPVC pipes:** Management believes Prince has a 10–12% market share in the CPVC pipes market with a size of INR50bn. CPVC pipes currently form about 22% of Prince's overall piping volumes.

**Inventory days:** Management expects inventory days to stabilise within 70–75 days (earlier: 110 days); anything below those levels looks improbable. Channel inventory is currently about three weeks.

## Company Description

PPFL is one of the leading polymer pipes and fittings manufacturers in India in terms of the number of distributors. The company markets its products under two brand names—Prince Piping Systems and Trubore. It has more than 30 years of experience in manufacturing polymer pipes and 20 plus years of experience in manufacturing fittings. Currently, PPFL manufactures polymer pipes and fittings using four different polymers—UPVC, CPVC, PPR and PP. As at March 31, 2025, the company had a product range of more than 7,200 SKUs used for varied applications in plumbing, irrigation and sewage disposal. It currently sells products to distributors, who then resell them to wholesalers, retailers and consumers.

## Investment Theme

PPFL—a leading player in fast-growing plastic pipes industry (12-14% CAGR)—has reaped benefit of demand shift to organised players. Underpinned by a comprehensive product range, presence across segments (agri, infra, plumbing) and pan-India brand & distribution. PPFL is affected by high competitive intensity and PVC price volatility.

## Key Risks

- Sustained slowdown in residential and non-residential construction activity in India
- Slowdown in agriculture sector
- Raw material prices volatility can impact profitability

## Additional Data

### Management

|                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Chairman and MD | Jayant S. Chheda        |
| ED & Promoter   | Parag J. Chheda         |
| ED & Promoter   | Vipul J. Chheda         |
| CFO             | Shyam Sharda            |
| Auditor         | N.A Shah Associates LLP |

### Holdings – Top 10\*

| % Holding       |       | % Holding       |      |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|------|
| Mirae asset     | 10.25 | ICICI AMC       | 0.30 |
| DSP             | 4.73  | Alquity investm | 0.26 |
| Norges bank     | 2.00  | Blackrock       | 0.21 |
| Dimensional fun | 0.47  | Motilal Oswal A | 0.11 |
| FundRock        | 0.43  | Tata AMC        | 0.11 |

\*Latest public data

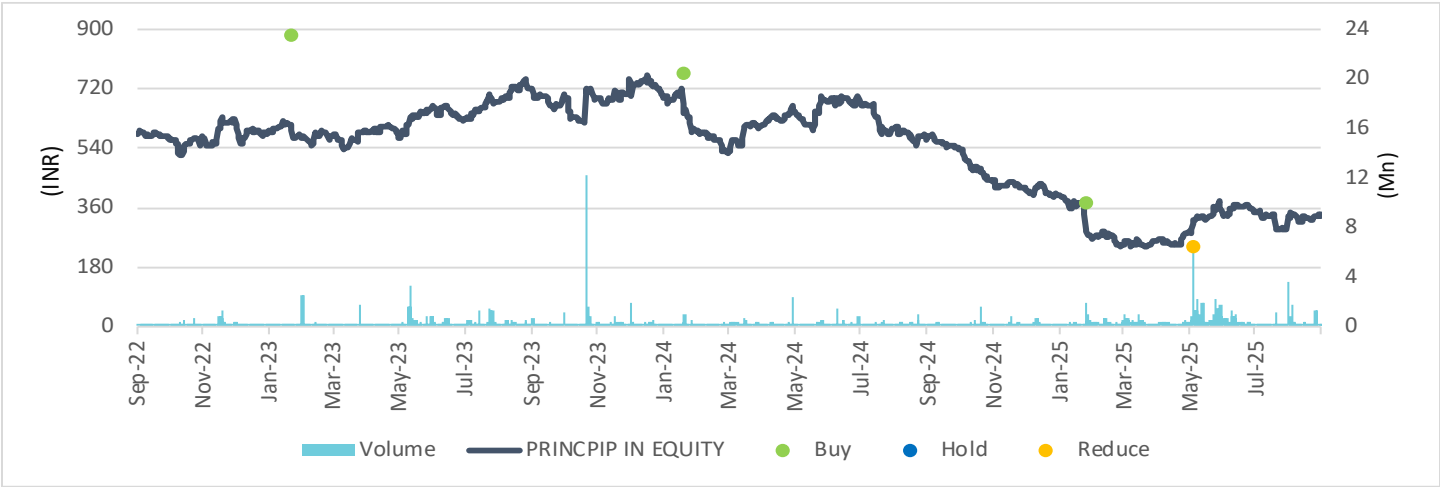
### Recent Company Research

| Date      | Title                                                          | Price | Reco   |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| 07-Aug-25 | Another weak result flows in; <i>Result Update</i>             | 325   | Reduce |
| 22-May-25 | Volumes dip; margins improve; <i>Result Update</i>             | 296   | Reduce |
| 12-Feb-25 | Competitive intensity hurts; to continue; <i>Result Update</i> | 294   | Buy    |

### Recent Sector Research

| Date      | Name of Co./Sector | Title                                                         |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08-Sep-25 | Kajaria Ceramics   | Focus on integration and cost savings; <i>Visit Note</i>      |
| 08-Sep-25 | Century Plyboards  | Leadership and aggression continue; <i>Visit Note</i>         |
| 03-Sep-25 | Venus Pipes        | Power sector, VAP drive volume upgrade; <i>Company Update</i> |

### Rating and Daily Volume Interpretation



Source: Bloomberg, Nuvama research

### Rating Rationale & Distribution: Nuvama Research

| Rating | Expected absolute returns over 12 months | Rating Distribution |
|--------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Buy    | 15%                                      | 202                 |
| Hold   | <15% and >-5%                            | 69                  |
| Reduce | <-5%                                     | 37                  |

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# PRINCE PIPES

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