

INDIAN PETROCHEMICALS INDUSTRY

Steady performance aided by stable demand and persistent spreads

DECEMBER 2021



Highlights



Demand for petrochemicals is expected to remain stable in FY2022, supporting the industry growth, albeit with some moderation in margins as spreads settle down from the levels achieved in FY2021.



 Notwithstanding some minor impact in Q1 FY2022 owing to the second wave, demand for petrochemicals is expected to remain stable in the current fiscal. Demand for several petrochemicals have recovered to above pre-Covid levels



■ There was sizeable margin expansion in FY2021, partly due to temporary demand-supply gaps created due to the disruptions created by the pandemic. While ICRA expects the industry growth momentum to sustain, some moderation in margins is likely going forward; albeit they will continue to remain healthy.



 Despite some capex towards capacity expansion being undertaken by some industry participants, overall the industry debt levels are not expected to increase materially going forward. Moreover the net debt levels of most companies in the sector remain moderate owing to healthy margins and cash accruals in the past few years.



■ The debt metrics of petrochemical players are also expected to remain healthy, with total debt/OPBDITA for ICRA sample set at 1.4-1.5x and interest cover at 10.0-11.0x during FY2022-24 period.



 ICRA expects the credit profile of the Indian petrochemical industry to remain steady in the near term. Players with a diversified business profile and conservatively-funded balance sheets were able to withstand the downturn with less impact on their credit profile.

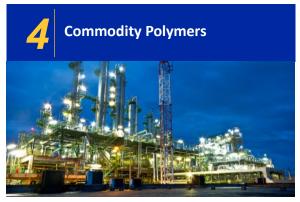
Agenda















Agenda



Fibre Intermediates













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