

Chemicals and Midcaps Q1FY26 Result Preview

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Axis Securities Equity Research

MIXED SIGNALS WITH GLIMMERS OF RECOVERY

Chemicals

Chemicals & Agrochemicals: In Q1FY26, we expect most specialty chemical companies under our coverage to show steady YoY improvement, primarily driven by volume growth on a favourable (low) base. However, QoQ performance is likely to be mixed, influenced by geopolitical tensions and tariff-related uncertainties. Pricing remains subdued due to ongoing macroeconomic challenges.

Refrigerant gas players are expected to report strong results, supported by favourable global prices and solid export demand. In contrast, commodity chemical companies are likely to post subdued numbers amid continued headwinds, although operational efficiency initiatives may offer some relief.

Within agrochemicals, we anticipate that companies with a domestic focus are likely to perform better. Growth in the domestic market is expected to be supported by new product launches, strong volume growth ahead of the kharif season, and healthy demand driven by a normal monsoon outlook. Generic agrochemical players are also likely to report volume-led growth as inventory destocking completes. On the export front, global destocking has largely been completed, and fresh demand is now contributing to growth in international markets.

Overall, we foresee a mixed performance across the chemicals and agrochemicals sector in Q1FY26, with domestic demand remaining more resilient compared to exports. Meanwhile, customers continue to wait for greater clarity on long-term tariff policies. Additionally, given China's ongoing overcapacity, there is an elevated risk of increased price competition in non-US markets.

Diversified Midcaps: YoY revenue growth is anticipated for the midcap stocks under coverage, driven by an increased focus on exports and stable domestic demand. These companies, primarily in the manufacturing sector, are expected

to benefit from stronger demand from key end markets and resulting operational efficiencies.

Aarti Industries Ltd: We expect a slight YoY decline in revenue, impacted by multiple geopolitical disruptions and volatility in raw material prices, even though volumes are likely to grow. EBITDA is projected to decline YoY due to sustained pricing pressures, with margins expected to be slightly lower compared to the same quarter last year.

Apcotex Industries Ltd: Revenue growth is anticipated to be supported by higher volumes and strong export momentum. However, oversupply in certain segments, particularly nitrile latex/gloves, is likely to continue weighing on realisations YoY. We expect EBITDA to improve, driven by higher utilisation and operational efficiencies.

Archean Chemical Industries Ltd (ACIL): We foresee top-line growth supported by strong demand and higher volumes compared to the previous couple of quarters, which were impacted by various logistical challenges. Bromine volumes, in particular, are expected to grow, aided by increased contribution from bromine derivatives. Margins are likely to improve sequentially.

Camlin Fine Science Limited: We anticipate top-line growth due to the continued momentum in the blends and aroma business and the ramp-up of the vanillin plant, which is expected to benefit from rising vanillin prices. While the performance chemical business is expected to remain muted, margins are expected to improve. The EBITDA Margins are expected to see an increase due to positive operating performance, favourable product mix and reduced losses in closed Italy and China facilities.

NOCIL Ltd: We anticipate muted revenue growth YoY, due to persistent competitive pressures. EBITDA margins are expected to be under pressure due to ongoing pricing challenges.

Navin Fluorine International Ltd: For NFIL, we anticipate revenue growth to be driven by capacity expansion, strong export momentum, a healthy order book in spec chem, stabilisation of the HFO plant, and a positive trend in refrigerant prices. The EBITDA is expected to increase mainly due to improved operational performance and favourable pricing.

PI Industries Ltd (PI): PI continues to focus on expanding into new products within the Non-AgChem sector and enhancing capabilities in non-core businesses. Revenue is expected to grow primarily driven by the strong performance of new products. The company's pyroxasulfone business is expected to remain under pressure, partially offsetting margin gains in other businesses.

Dhanuka Agritech Ltd: Top-line growth is expected on the back of a good monsoon, strong demand, and positive traction in new products. The rollout of new molecules will be an important factor to monitor. Margins are projected to improve YoY, benefiting from a better product mix and operational leverage.

Diversified Mid-Cap Opportunities

Praj Industries: Praj Industries' performance is expected to remain under pressure during the quarter due to continued weakness in the domestic bio-energy business. We expect the top line to be impacted by the extended project execution cycle, delay in the pickup of the new Mangalore facility. The EBITDA is expected to degrow owing to higher fixed income expenses against lower revenues.

Mold-Tek Packaging: Mold-Tek Packaging is expected to report revenue growth in Q1FY26, driven by increased volumes in the FF, Paint, and Pharma segments, driven by higher demand and the addition of capacities. The company has guided continued improvement in EBITDA/KG due to the contribution from the high-margin pharma segment.

Welspun Living: We expect topline growth to moderate as demand is likely to be impacted by tariff-related uncertainties. The EBITDA Margins are expected to decline due to operational deleverage and elevated freight-related expenses, also leading to a decline in PAT on a YoY basis.

Pitti Engineering Ltd: We expect the company to continue the growth momentum, supported by volume growth and synergies. The higher contribution of value-added assemblies and the benefits of merger synergy are expected to contribute to improved margins YoY.

Kirloskar Brothers Ltd. (KBL): Sustained demand in key markets and a strong order book are expected to translate into a strong YoY revenue growth for KBL. The EBITDA Margins are expected to improve further YoY with better product mix and execution of cost-saving strategies.

Va Tech Wabag Ltd.: The company had an order book of approximately Rs 13,700 Cr as of Q4FY25, which supports the expectation of robust revenue growth in Q1FY26. However, the revenues are likely to decline sequentially compared to Q4, which is a seasonally strong quarter. EBITDA Margins are expected to remain at a similar level, as guided by the company.

Gravita India Ltd.: We expect revenue growth driven by volume growth and supported by robust lead prices. The company is likely to maintain similar margins as the previous quarter (post other income, which includes hedging-related income).

Key Monitorable in Q1FY26

We remain vigilant on management commentary related to demand trends, capacity utilisation, and geopolitical risks, especially in light of the global geopolitical conflicts, which have driven crude oil prices higher, as well as tariff-related uncertainties. The company's significant exposure to the US market could lead to temporary demand disruptions, as customers may delay orders awaiting more clarity. Over the long term, the tariff environment could favour Indian players by reducing competition from countries facing higher tariff rates than India. Nevertheless, we advise maintaining a cautious outlook on companies with substantial US export exposure, as their near-term performance may be adversely affected.

Our Top Picks: *Camlin Fine Science Ltd, Navin Fluorine International Ltd, PI Industries Ltd, Dhanuka Agritech Ltd, Mold-Tek Packaging Ltd*

Specialty Chemicals

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result Expectations
Aarti Industries Ltd.						
Revenues	1,827	1,949	-6%	1,855	-2%	→ We Expect Revenue to decrease marginally YoY, led by multiple geopolitical disturbances, sharp RM price correction, while we expect volumes to grow.
EBITDA	283	268	6%	305	-7%	→ The EBITDA is expected to decline YoY due to continued pricing pressure.
EBITDA Margins (%)	15.5%	13.8%	175 bps	16.4%	-94 bps	→ The margin is expected to decline slightly from the previous year's same quarter.
PAT	97	96	1%	137	-29%	→ The PAT is expected to grow marginally QoQ
EPS (Rs)	2.7	2.6	1%	3.8	-29%	→ Key Monitorables: Increasing capacity utilisation levels, Updates on capex, and Possible positive or negative impact of US tariffs.
Apcotex Industries Ltd.						
Revenues	370	349	6%	337	10%	→ We expect Topline to grow due to an increase in volume and sustained export growth.
EBITDA	41	38	6%	32	28%	→ We expect robust EBITDA growth due to improved utilisation levels and resulting operational efficiencies
EBITDA Margins (%)	11.0%	11.0%	-1 bps	9.4%	157 bps	→ EBITDA Margins are expected to be in line with the previous quarter.
PAT	19	17	15%	15	31%	→ The PAT is expected to be in line with the overall performance
EPS (Rs)	3.7	3.2	15%	2.9	31%	→ Key Monitorable: Update on ramp-up of new project; demand trends across key end-user industries
Archean Chemical Industries Ltd.						
Revenues	397	346	15%	213	87%	→ We expect the topline to grow on account of healthy demand and volume uptick compared to the last impacted quarter due to logistical challenges at the ports.
EBITDA	121	88	37%	71	70%	→ The EBITDA is expected to improve with the overall topline
EBITDA Margins (%)	30.5%	25.5%	495 bps	33.5%	-297 bps	→ We expect the margins to improve QoQ.
PAT	82	54	53%	45	84%	→ The PAT would show strong growth.
EPS	6.7	4.4	53%	3.6	84%	→ We expect the company to post an EPS of 6.7 per share.

Specialty Chemicals (Cont'd)

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result Expectations
Camlin Fine Sciences Ltd.						<div>➔ Topline to grow due to the continued growth momentum in blends and aroma business, ramp up of vanillin plant, and rising vanillin prices.</div> <div>➔ The EBITDA is expected to improve with margin improvement</div> <div>➔ The EBITDA Margins are expected to see an increase due to positive operating performance, favourable product mix, and reduced losses in closed Italy and China facilities</div> <div>➔ The company is expected to post a positive profit number with an all-around improvement in performance</div> <div>➔ Key Monitorable: Update on Vanillin plant performance, demand trends across key end-user industries, benefits from anti-dumping duties in Europe and the USA</div>
Revenues	475	437	9%	396	20%	
EBITDA	67	59	12%	18	267%	
EBITDA Margins (%)	14.0%	13.6%	42 bps	4.6%	942 bps	
PAT	17	0		(35)	149%	
EPS (Rs)	1.0	0.0		(2.2)	146%	
Navin Fluorine International Ltd.						<div>➔ We anticipate growth in the top line, supported by volume growth driven by capacity expansion, strong export momentum and a healthy order book in spec chem.</div> <div>➔ The EBITDA is expected to increase due to improved operational performance and favourable pricing.</div> <div>➔ The margins are expected to improve on a YoY basis, similar to the previous quarter.</div> <div>➔ We expect the company to post a PAT/EPS to grow by 94% YoY.</div> <div>➔ Key Monitorables: New products in the pipeline, update on R32 ramp-up, Traction in CRAMS & Specialty Chemicals segment</div>
Revenues	723	701	3%	524	38%	
EBITDA	184	179	3%	100	84%	
EBITDA Margins (%)	25.5%	25.5%	0 bps	19.2%	634 bps	
PAT	99	95	4%	51	94%	
EPS (Rs)	20.0	19.2	4%	10.3	94%	

Specialty Chemicals (Cont'd)

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result Expectations
NOCIL Ltd.						
Revenues	395	340	16%	372	6%	→ We expect topline growth to remain muted YoY due to continued competitive intensity.
EBITDA	41	34	20%	41	0%	→ EBITDA is expected to remain at a similar level as the previous year.
EBITDA Margins (%)	10.4%	10.1%	31 bps	11.0%	-65 bps	→ EBITDA Margins are expected to be impacted due to ongoing pricing pressures.
PAT	27	21	28%	27	-2%	→ The PAT is expected to decline YoY, with the overall performance
EPS (Rs)	1.6	1.2	28%	1.6	-2%	→ Key Monitorables: Any signs of recovery in prices; Chinese import pressure & competition scenario & share of value-added products

Agro Chemical

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result Expectations
PI Industries Ltd.						
Revenues	2,255	1,787	26%	2,069	9%	➔ Revenue is expected to grow primarily driven by the strong performance of new products
EBITDA	640	456	41%	583	10%	➔ EBITDA is expected to grow on a similar line
EBITDA Margins (%)	28.4%	25.5%	291 bps	28.2%	21 bps	➔ EBITDA Margins are expected to be comparable to last year
PAT	466	331	41%	449	4%	➔ PAT growth is expected to be limited due to increased depreciation and interest expenses
EPS	30.7	21.7	41%	29.5	4%	➔ We expect an EPS of 30.7
Dhanuka Agritech Ltd.						
Revenues	553	442	25%	494	12%	➔ We expect the topline to grow on account of favourable monsoon, robust demand, and traction in new products.
EBITDA	91	110	-17%	72	27%	➔ EBITDA is also expected to witness significant growth on a YoY basis due to operational leverage and a better product mix
EBITDA Margins (%)	16.5%	24.8%	-833 bps	14.5%	197 bps	➔ We expect the margins to improve over the same quarter last year, owing to the above factors.
PAT	63	76	-17%	49	28%	➔ The PAT is expected to grow in line with the overall performance
EPS	13.7	16.7	-18%	10.7	28%	➔ With the company reporting EPS of 13.7 per share

Mid-Caps

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result Expectations
Mold-Tek Packaging Ltd.						
Revenues	220	203	9%	197	12%	→ We expected higher volumes in FF, Paint & Pharma in driven by higher demand and the addition of capacities, leading to robust revenue growth.
EBITDA	42	38	9%	36	17%	→ The EBITDA is expected to grow on the back of an increased demand for value-added products and a growing contribution from the high-margin pharma segment.
EBITDA Margins (%)	19.0%	18.9%	10 bps	18.2%	84 bps	→ We expect EBITDA Margins to improve due to operational leverage and better product mix.
PAT	19	16	17%	17	15%	→ The PAT is expected to increase in line with the overall operational performance.
EPS	5.7	4.9	17%	5.0	15%	→ Key Monitorables: Demand off-take from key end user industries; RM price inflation; Update on Pharma capacity utilisation and any new partnerships
Praj Industries Ltd.						
Revenues	682	860	-21%	699	-2%	→ We expect the top line to be impacted by the extended project execution cycle, delay in the pick-up of the new Mangalore facility and continued weakness in the domestic bio-energy segment.
EBITDA	59	75	-22%	87	-32%	→ The EBITDA is expected to degrow owing to higher fixed income expenses against lower revenues.
EBITDA Margins (%)	8.6%	8.8%	-14 bps	12.4%	-378 bps	→ Accordingly, we expect the margins to decline YoY due to operational deleverage.
PAT	34	40	-15%	84	-60%	→ The PAT is expected to decline due to weaker overall performance.
EPS	1.9	2.2	-15%	4.6	-60%	→ Key Monitorables: Any signs of pick-up in domestic bio-energy business, traction in new offerings, export demand strength

Mid-Caps (Cont'd)

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result Expectations
Kirloskar Brothers Ltd.						
Revenues	1,220	1,281	-5%	1,031	18%	→ We expect robust revenue growth driven by continued traction in key end markets and export growth.
EBITDA	137	190	-28%	112	23%	→ Similarly, the company is expected to post a robust EBITDA growth.
EBITDA Margins (%)	11.3%	14.8%	-354 bps	10.8%	42 bps	→ We expect the margins to improve on a YoY basis.
PAT	82	137	-40%	65	27%	→ Similarly, we expect significant growth in net profit on a YoY basis.
EPS	10.4	17.3	-40%	8.2	27%	→ Key Monitorable: Performance of overseas subsidiaries, commentary on key end market growth, and impact of tariff-related uncertainties.
Pitti Engineering Ltd.						
Revenues	462	469	-1%	391	18%	→ We expect the company to continue the growth trajectory supported by volume growth and synergies.
EBITDA	78	80	-2%	58	35%	→ EBITDA is expected to grow, supported by revenue growth and higher contribution of high-value-added assemblies.
EBITDA Margins (%)	17.0%	17.1%	-9 bps	14.8%	217 bps	→ Operating leverage and a favourable revenue mix is expected to lead to better margins compared to last year, in line with the previous quarter.
PAT	32	36	-12%	19	64%	→ We expect PAT growth as the benefits of operating leverage and operational synergies flow through.
EPS	8.4	9.6	-12%	5.1	64%	→ Key monitorable factors: capacity utilisation levels, trends in key end markets, potential impact of US tariffs.

Mid-Caps (Cont'd)

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result Expectations
VA Tech Wabag Ltd.						
Revenues	732	1,156	-37%	627	17%	➔ The Topline is expected to grow significantly YoY, but decline sequentially compared to a seasonally strong Q4.
EBITDA	88	141	-38%	81	8%	➔ We expect EBITDA to grow at a higher pace.
EBITDA Margins (%)	12.0%	12.2%	-18 bps	13.0%	-98 bps	➔ The margins are expected to remain similar compared to the previous quarter.
PAT	60	100	-40%	55	9%	➔ The PAT is expected to grow in line with EBITDA.
EPS	9.6	16.0	-40%	8.8	9%	➔ Key Monitorable: Order execution and inflow, contribution from O&M and International business, updates on the order from the Saudi Water Authority.
Gravita India Ltd.						
Revenues	1,020	1,037	-2%	908	12%	➔ We expect revenue growth driven by volume growth and supported by robust lead prices
EBITDA	105	109	-3%	91	15%	➔ The EBITDA (including other income) is expected to improve YoY due to higher volumes.
EBITDA Margins (%)	10.3%	10.5%	-17 bps	10.1%	24 bps	➔ We expect the margins to remain at a similar level to the previous quarter
PAT	76	95	-20%	68	12%	➔ The PAT is expected to grow YoY, supported by higher operating expenses (hedging gains), but decline sequentially
EPS	11.00	13.75	-20%	9.85	12%	➔ Key Monitorable: Segmental Volumes, Pick up in plastic and aluminium, updates on hedging contracts for Aluminium

Mid-Caps (Cont'd)

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result Expectations
Welspun India Ltd						
Revenues	2,663	2,646	1%	2,536	5%	→ We expect marginal topline growth to moderate, driven by tariff-related uncertainties
EBITDA	312	316	-1%	342	-9%	→ The EBITDA is expected to decline YoY
EBITDA Margins (%)	11.7%	11.9%	-24 bps	13.5%	-176 bps	→ The EBITDA Margins are expected to decline due to operational deleverage and higher freight-related expenses.
PAT	147	133	10%	186	-21%	→ The PAT is expected to decline YoY in line with the overall subdued growth
EPS	1.5	1.4	10%	1.9	-20%	→ Key Monitorables: Commentary around FTA with UK and EU(expected), Tariff-related uncertainties, RM prices, Growth in Emerging Businesses

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