

DRYCOTEC DIARIES



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(Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India)

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Tile Adhesive
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Spray Renders
Repair Mortar

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Thickening
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Adjustment time
Cost reduction
Bounce back reduction
Application Speed

Applications : Gypsum

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Benefits : Gypsum

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Workability
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Application Speed



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Editor's Page : The Rule Breakers



LIFE IN A METRO & FUN IN A METRO : THE INTELLIGENT LOAFERS

Do you want to spend the entire day watching the city and its hustle, in an air-conditioned metro only for Rs.10 ?, not possible is what many of you are thinking. But it is true & possible. Did you know that exit on the same gate with smart card will charge you only Rs.10. Let me explain, if you are in a city which has multiple metro lines & have taken an all-metro smart card (which is free) pre-loaded with some basic cash, and you want to see the city, then follow my instructions. Get in the metro, any station, during non-peak hours, then take a good seat which gives a city view. Travel across the entire line, or even multiple lines, watch the city, watch the people, watch the buildings & spend some time in the air conditioned train. Important : The only rule is that you will not exit in any station, you can exit only the station which you made your entry. The day well spent & the travel cost will be only Rs.10.

THE FUN IN AIR TRAVEL : THE RICH & THE RIGID

Airlines are now asking for zone wise boarding to speed up the process. They begin with Zone1, which is the last section of the aircraft if they are using the aerobridge. There are many wise people who will get into the line even when they are not in the zone. If the staff is sharp, they are asked to wait or sometimes they just pass & cause delays.

Getting up when the flight is still taxiing, opening the top baggage decks, not listening to the staff & arguing to visit the washroom while the seat belt sign is on, are some of the most common rules breaking situations. AI, Smart phones, Tablets, Print-less boarding cards, Digi Yatra & multiple ticketing portals could not change the mindset of the Indian traveler who still does the jumping of the rules and will keep doing it.

OUR CELL PHONE & OUR WORLD : THE HEAD LESS & THE HEAD PHONE LESS

A plane, a train, a bus, these rule breakers are everywhere. They are absolutely unaware or simply not bothered that their loud volume could disturb other passengers. They don't use headphones or buds & simply keep binge watching videos with volume enough for all passengers to hear. They get offended if you ask them to lower the volume.

So how to explain something to a stranger?. It is our natural defense system to close our mind and get in an attack mode when approached. Word can lead to a nasty argument & thing may crop up to even mild violence. So how do we do it ?, I see only one way "Be Polite, be super polite."

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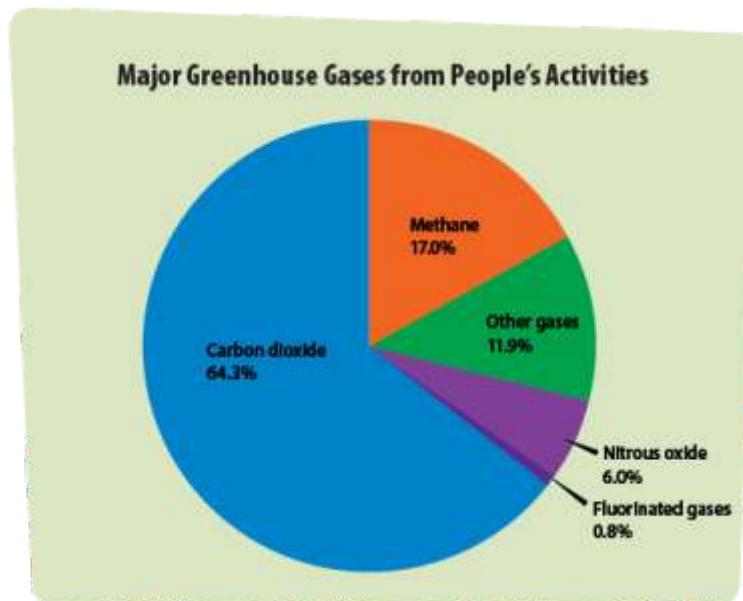
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My Technical Support Diaries : A Sustainable Solution



This article has been given by Anupam Shil, Head - Technical & Marketing Services, STP Limited (A Berger group company). Anupam is a technical leader with 30 years of experience into Business Development & tech support in Construction Chemicals, Coatings, Lubricants, Seals, Valves and Industrial Consumables. Every discussion on this subject revolves around - choice of materials, process of construction, expected service life and reusability. And all of this pointing the first target as to reduce emission of greenhouse gases. For the sake of beginners, greenhouse gases (GHG) are those gases which absorb and trap Sun's radiation after it is reflected back from the Earth's surface. Presence of these gases in excess volume within earth's atmosphere results in higher absorption of this energy and subsequent release, causing global warming and effecting climate cycle in a disruptive manner. Among these gases, the highest contributor happens to be carbon dioxide, released mainly through production of electric energy, transportation and industrial processes.



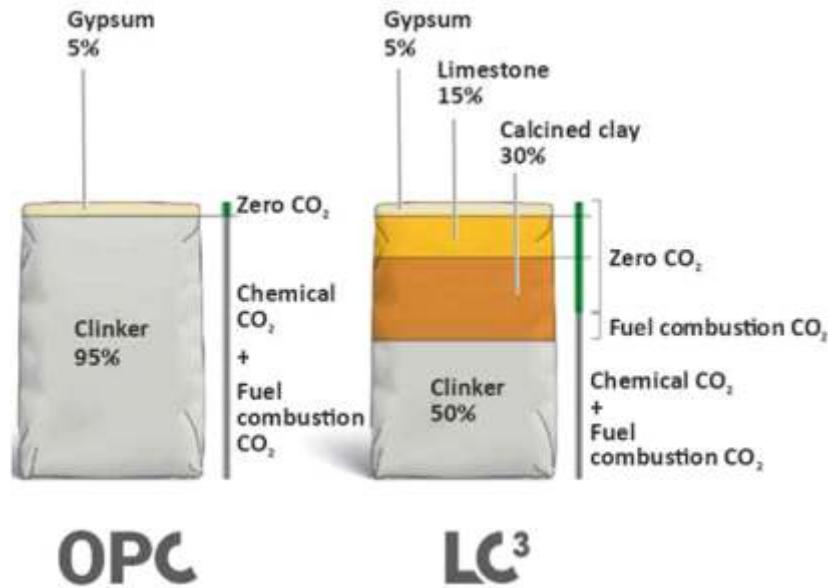
Taken from:

<https://archive.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/basics/today/greenhouse-gases.html>

We must know that the building and construction industry happens to be one of the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, accounting from 35 to 40% of global emissions. Till few years back, in India, each ton of cement produced was capable of releasing an equal quantum of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. This has changed drastically, through upgradation of processing technologies and induction of alternative fuels. Today's emission rate by cement producers, as available from various sources, indicates that per ton of cement production is resulting in CO₂ emission of approx. 0.6 tons.

The second important step towards reducing cement consumption in construction process is achieved by utilizing supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs). This has brought about a lot of change, particularly in the infrastructure industry, and as a country, India has moved forward in utilizing various types of SCMs by providing codal provisions for the specifier. Fly ash (Class C & F), Ground granulated blast furnace slag (GGBS), Micro silica, Pozzolanic clays, Limestone, Rice husk, etc. are amongst several materials which can reduce the consumption of Ordinary Portland cement (OPC), by a small or large quantity and in addition also contribute significantly to durability of concrete.

Amongst these combinations of OPC with other materials, one of the most promising one, which is gradually leading researchers to dive deep into ways and means of adopting this format is LC3 or Limestone calcined clay cement. This combination limits the usage of ordinary portland cement to 50%, yet providing a reliable and durable binding mass for construction. Roughly it contains 50% OPC, 30% Calcined clay, 15% Limestone and 5% Gypsum. Gradually LC3 manufacturing is picking up in our country and in times to come can significantly contribute to the cause of sustainability and reusability.



Taken from: <https://taratarc.com/technology>

Another major scope which is rather seeing a slow progress is finding ways and means of reusing Construction and Demotion (C&D) waste, apart from landfilling, where most of this material is put to use today. Separating, crushing, sieving, reprocessing, chemical treatment, etc. technologies and machineries are yet to become popular and commercially viable to bring about a radical change in the way C&D waste is perceived by the construction sector today. This apart, a major part played in creating a sustainable world is largely through creation of structures and materials that are more durable. Structures which can last longest and sometimes made through materials and designs that can be modified periodically through superficial facelift without disturbing most of the main structure, can dramatically bring down the load on earthly resources to repeatedly compensate for reconstruction or rehabilitation. Durability directly contributes to Sustainability, without fail.

Now coming to Construction Chemicals, without which building any structure is inconceivable. Chemicals, usually in liquid or powder form, having underwent a customized process of manufacturing is obtained through engineered industrial processes. Such a process for sure is not devoid of emission and effluent release and obtained through utilization of electric energy produced through fossil fuels. Use of materials with least volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which poses threat more to the sustainability of the user than the environment, must be encouraged through the route of – Compliment for Compliance. Such initiatives must be induced top down through regulations guiding the manufacturing unit, as well as the finished goods. Many large scale companies produce their finished goods through toll manufacturing from smaller manufacturers. In such cases, clear mention of the manufacturing & emission / disposal standards, as practiced by the toll manufacturer is an essential metrological declaration, in order to distinguish between the norms followed by brand owners versus their white labelers. These practices, with inclusivity to human safety, should be pushed into the industry through mandatory regulations and encouraged through monetary exemptions. Several forms of system adoption and compliance approvals presently guide towards this direction, such as, ISO accreditations, ISI or CE marking, Green product certification, LEED, GRIHA, IGBC, ECBC, EPD, etc.



Taken from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bureau_of_Indian_Standards

The last technical pie on the cake, that is, adoption of new materials and practices leading to sustainability must be parallelly supported by revising existing codes and inclusion of new codes to assist specifiers and designers. Without this, neither specifier nor asset owner shall have enough confidence to explore newer way of doing things. As an obvious example, the Indian market saw exponential growth in the tile adhesive market from 2019 onwards in spite of striking of a global epidemic in the subsequent year. We cannot discount the fact that in 2019, the codal provision for tile adhesives covered by BIS:15477 was expanded from a simplistic two type adhesives based on porosity of the tile, to an elaborated five type categorization. Needless to say, this provision gave confidence and logic for the industry to fast adopt to new materials.

However, we are riding the sports car of development, driven by commercial logic, faster ROIs and rising profitability. Remembering a popular caption on express highways, “Speed thrills, but kills”, our industry needs to be looked in the same light. How safe is this sports car of development? Just imagine the 20 odd years of education, if was imparted upon us, in 10 years through a dead-lined crash course; Will we be the same professional? Can we head towards controlled, calculated and focused growth? Let's debate and explore. From a sociological view point, it is important to understand that Sustainability (without ignoring profitability) is perceivable, however, if as a society we expect to enjoy all the benefits that it shall reap in the present day, we will be completely wrong. Whatever sustainable practices we shall adopt, by making new roads, developing new habits, creating new goals, must become a part of our societal DNA, with this clear understanding that it is not we individuals who shall derive a massive benefit out of it, but our next generations who shall follow us. Only with this Empathy, can Sustainability become a Reality.

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My Cement Diaries :
**Is the Cement
Industry Ready for a
Raw Material Shock?**



Dr. S. B. Hegde :

Professor

Department of Civil Engineering, Jain college of
Engineering & Technology, Hubli, India &

Visiting Professor

Pennsylvania State University, United States of America

IS THE CEMENT INDUSTRY READY FOR A RAW MATERIAL SHOCK ?

The global cement industry is quietly entering a phase of deep raw material uncertainty. What was once considered stable—like limestone quality, fly ash availability, and international imports of gypsum or petcoke—is now under serious pressure.

Across several regions, the quality of cement-grade limestone is going down. For example, in parts of North Africa and Asia, the average CaO content has reduced from 52.5 percent in 2010 to below 49.5 percent in 2023. Lower-grade limestone means more energy is needed to produce the same quality of clinker, raising both emissions and costs.

At the same time, we are seeing a steep fall in the generation of fly ash and GGBFS. This is because many countries are shutting down coal-based thermal plants and moving away from blast furnace-based steelmaking. In Europe, fly ash availability has dropped from 28.5 million tonnes in 2015 to a projected 17.5 million tonnes by 2025.

The situation is similar in the United States, where the number has come down from 34 million to 21 million tonnes. This creates a growing gap in supplementary cementitious materials that are crucial for sustainable cement production.

Geopolitical conflicts have made this situation even more fragile. The ongoing Russia–Ukraine war has disturbed gypsum and slag trade routes across the Black Sea and increased the cost of sea freight across Europe and Asia. The recent tensions between Israel and Iran have triggered further instability in the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz, two of the world's most critical shipping corridors.

These areas are vital for transporting gypsum, petcoke, and synthetic slag. As a result, price volatility has risen to over 30 percent for some of these raw materials in the past two years. Import-dependent countries are now facing unpredictable delivery times and rising logistics costs. Despite all these warning signs, many cement plants are still depending on outdated systems and limited digital monitoring. But global best practices are showing what's possible.

In Germany, Brazil, and India, some plants are already using digital quarry models, real-time XRD mineralogy, and AI-based feed control systems. These tools allow them to maintain clinker quality and optimize fuel use, even when the raw material quality is variable.

New binder systems are also gaining traction.

The cement industry today is standing at a crossroads. This is not just a technical challenge—it is a strategic one. We must now build a future where raw materials are secured through innovation, diversification, and digital control. The disruptions we see—whether due to mineral depletion, industrial shifts, or international conflicts—are no longer isolated. They are deeply connected. If we do not act now, the next raw material shock will not just impact costs. It will challenge our ability to build.



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My Material Diaries : Carbon Fibre Reinforced Polymer



Sanjay Chitnis, Retired Sr. Vice President (Technical Services), JK Lakshmi cement Ltd has almost four decades of experience in the field of cement. He is an engineer from the COEP college in Pune, has done his MDI program from Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow & Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad. He has also done his MBA from Annamalai University.

Mr. Chitnis is very punctual, down to earth, smart with Sound civil engineering knowledge coupled with administration & managerial capabilities. He loves writing short articles on Sundays on LinkedIn. We have taken one such very interesting article from him for the benefit of our readers.

CFRP is a composite material that consists of carbon fibres and a polymer matrix. In CFRP the reinforcement is carbon fibre, which provides its strength. Thermosetting resins including polyester, epoxy, and vinyl resins are extensively used during the formulation of carbon fibre reinforced polymer.

The properties of a CFRP depend on the layouts of the carbon fibre and the proportion of the carbon fibres relative to the polymer. CFRP has excellent specific tensile strength, modulus, and fatigue strength.

Carbon Fibre Reinforced Polymer (CFRP) has a wide range of applications due to its exceptional strength-to-weight ratio, corrosion resistance, and durability.

APPLICATIONS

1. Civil Engineering : Bridge construction, repair, and retrofitting; building facades and structural components.
2. Wind Energy : Wind turbine blades and hubs.
3. Aerospace : Aircraft and spacecraft components, such as fuselage, wings, and control surfaces.
4. Automotive : High-performance car components, such as chassis, body panels, and engine parts.
5. Marine : Boat and ship hulls, masts, and other structural components.
6. Sports Equipment : High-performance sports gear, such as bicycle frames, golf clubs, and tennis rackets.
7. Medical Devices : Implants, prosthetics, and surgical instruments.

Repair refers to fixing damage to restore a structure to its previous condition while "retrofitting" means modifying an existing structure to improve its performance and applications include increasing the load capacity of old structures (such as bridges, beams, ceilings, columns and walls) that were designed to tolerate far lower service loads than they are experiencing today, seismic retrofitting, and repair of damaged structures.

Retrofitting is popular in many instances as the cost of replacing the deficient structure can greatly exceed the cost of strengthening . Using CFRP, strength is increased more than double but increase in stiffness is hardly 10%. As a consequence, only small cross-sectional areas of the material are used.

CFRPs are more costly materials.

CFRP conducts heat and electricity. It depends on fibre orientation & the resin used, making it more conducive along the fibre direction than perpendicular to it.

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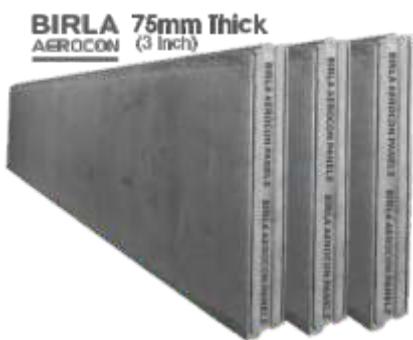
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My AAC Diaries : Can an AAC Block Plant Be Converted Into an AAC Panel Plant?



Javed Mansuri, Plant Head & Technical Manager is an expert with 15yrs experience in Building material products, Readymix plaster, tile adhesive, dry mix mortar, block joining mortar, wall putty, AAC blocks, Bentonite grinding. He is currently working as General Manager in Safricode in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Can an AAC Block Plant Be Converted Into an AAC Panel Plant ?

Yes — and it's a smart strategic move. As construction demands shift toward faster, more efficient, and prefab solutions are required. I would recommend the following modifications.

Modifications Needed

1. Mould Design Change

- Current moulds designed for blocks (600x200x200 mm typically).
- Panel moulds are larger (e.g. 3m x 0.6m x 75–150mm) and require steel cages to be inserted.

3. Reinforcement Unit

- Setup for cutting, welding, and placing steel mesh/rebars inside the panels before casting.
- Adds strength to panels (structural or non-structural use).

5. Storage Racks & Packaging

- Design new stacking racks for horizontal or vertical storage.
- Safe packaging to avoid cracking during transport.

2. Cutting Machine

- Block cutter doesn't support thin, long cuts required for panels.
- Install high-precision multi-wire cutter for accurate panel dimensions.

4. Handling Equipment

- Add cranes, vacuum lifters, or panel grippers for safe movement.
- Panels are fragile and large—manual handling isn't feasible.

6. Personnel Training

- Panel production requires stricter quality control.
- Staff needs training in reinforcement, dimensional tolerance, and handling.

Why Convert to AAC Panels?

1. High Demand: Precast panels are in demand for prefab buildings, walls, floors, partitions.
2. Faster Construction: Panels enable rapid installation, saving time.
3. Higher Selling Price: Better margins compared to blocks.
4. Lightweight & Fireproof: Ideal for modern buildings, schools, hospitals.

Challenges to Consider

- Higher production complexity.
- Need strict quality control for strength and tolerance.
- Requires trained engineers for panel design and installation.

Summary

Yes, you can convert an AAC block plant to a panel plant. But it needs significant investment and upgradation in moulds, cutting, reinforcement, and handling systems.

Equipment List for AAC block plant into AAC Panel Plant Conversion

1. Panel Casting & Mould Equipment

- Tilting Panel Moulds (Large format)
- Size: ~3m to 6m panels, multiple cavities per mould
- With provisions for reinforcement cages
- Core item—mandatory
- Tilting Table / Demoulding Station
- For safe removal of large, reinforced green panels
- Helps reduce damage during handling

2. Steel Reinforcement System

- Bar Cutting Machine
- For straightening and cutting TMT bars to required lengths
- Bar Bending Machine
- To create mesh or U-shaped cages for internal panel strength
- Mesh Welding Machine (optional but preferred)
- Automates steel mesh production
- Rebar Storage Racks & Jigs
- For cage pre-assembly and placement in moulds
- Essential for all reinforced panels

3. High-Precision Cutting Line

- Horizontal Wire Cutting Machine
- For cutting panel thickness (75–200 mm) precisely
- Vertical Wire Cutting Machine
- For length and height precision
- Slurry Waste Collection System
- Collects cutting slurry for recycling
- Panel accuracy depends heavily on this setup

4. Handling & Transport System

- Vacuum Lifting System
- For lifting fresh or autoclaved panels without damage
- Overhead Crane (EOT Crane)
- For panel movement between sections
- Tilting Arm / Lifting Beam
- To lift panels horizontally or vertically
- Transfer Trolleys (Rail-mounted)
- For shifting moulds and cages during casting/demoulding
- Vital for safe handling of fragile green panels

5. Autoclaving (No major change)

If you already have:

- Autoclaves (Steam curing chambers)
- Boiler system
- Rail trolleys for curing carts

6. Packing & Storage

- Shrink Wrapping or Banding Tools
- For protection during storage/dispatch
- Labeling and QC tagging system
- For batch-wise quality and dimensional tracking

7. Plant Modification & Accessories

- Civil work: Reinforcement bay, layout extension
- Electricals: Power control panels for new equipment
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- Safety gear: Fall protection, cage handling tools

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RMX Sand Solutions offers a sustainable solution to the increasing demand for sand in the construction and infrastructure industries.



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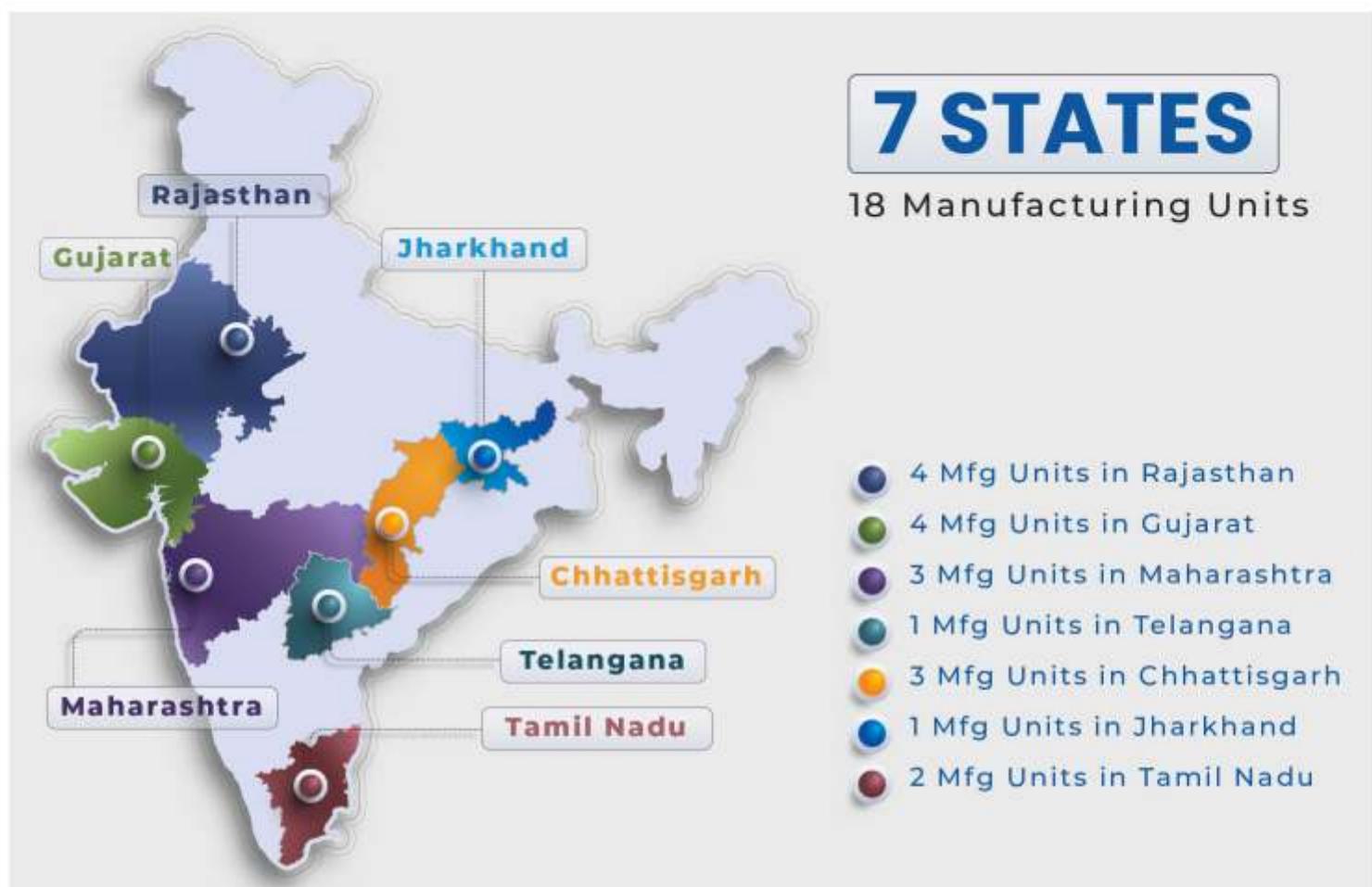
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Dr. B. L. Maheshwari
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STRONG Q1 SEEN AS INPUT COSTS EASE, DEMAND BUILDS

Cement Cos on Solid Ground on Main Street, Stocks on D-St

Kalravi Lukka

Mumbai: Shares of cement companies have seen renewed buying interest in the past few weeks following a rise in prices, expectations of strong first quarter results despite the onset of monsoons, and an expected FY26 rebound from circumspect sales last year.

Analysts said that even on the technical charts, some stocks indicate a breakout.

Companies such as UltraTech Cement, Grasim Industries, Ramco Cements, Ambuja Cements, JK Cement and Shree Cement have advanced 5-11% in the past one month, recouping some of the losses made in the previous year. The benchmarks Nifty 50 and Nifty 500 have gained 1.8% and 1.7% in this period, respectively.

"Cement price hikes taken in June have sustained for the first time in a while, and coupled with reduced cash discounts, have kept net realisations for the companies stable through the first quarter," said Manish Valecha, research analyst at Anand Rathi Institutional Equities. "A low-base effect from last year, when growth slowed to 3-4% due to elections, is also expected to boost this year's growth to 7-8%, starting from Q1."

Valecha also said that pet coke prices have remained stable, helping keep input costs in check. Petroleum coke, or pet coke is used as a fuel in the production process.

Sham Chandak, head of institutional equities at Elios Financial Services, said current Indian demand for cement is 440 million tonnes per annum (mtpa), which is likely to grow to 620 mtpa by 2030.

Strong Tailwinds

Company	LTP (₹)	1Mth Chg(%)	YTD Chg (%)
UltraTech Cement	12,505	11.1	9.2
Grasim Industries	2,802.90	8.88	14.7
Ramco Cements	1,092	8.65	13.0
Ambuja Cements	593.5	6.91	10.1
JK Cement	6,239.50	6.18	36.1
Shree Cement	31,280	5.68	22.6
ACC	1,964.70	3.17	-4.3
Dalmia Bharat	2,175	2.78	22.8

Source: NSE



"After a benign couple of quarters, average cement prices rose by 8% year-on-year in Q1FY26, reaching ₹360 per bag. Declining input costs (especially coal and diesel) have led to margin improvements, and a sharp decline in interest rates further improves margins," he said.


This increase in demand, coupled with pricing power and cost efficiency is likely to keep buyers interested in cement stocks.

"Cement stocks have seen a renewed buying interest in the last couple of weeks with stocks within the sector witnessing price up moves supported by rising volumes," said Ruchit Jain, vice president at Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

WHAT SHOULD TRADERS AND INVESTORS DO?

Jain said that stocks like Ultratech Cement have given a breakout from

12-months consolidation phase indicating the start of a fresh up-trend. "We expect the stock to rally towards ₹13,200 in the short term while the ₹12,300-12,200 range is expected to act as a support," he said. This indicates 5.5% upside from Friday's close.

Jain also said that Ramco Cements too has been showing signs of outperformance within the sector and has a bullish set-up, it may move towards ₹1,200 in the short term. That would imply gains of almost 10% from its current price.

Valecha said he expects strong first-quarter results in the sector, particularly from South-based companies.

"Valuations remain attractive, with large-caps offering 15-20% upside and midcaps likely to deliver 20-25% returns over the next year. We prefer UltraTech among large-caps and JK Cement in midcaps," he said.

Chandak said that current valuations have priced in the near term positives, leaving little value on the table, but cement remains a good play over the 3-5 years period.



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Cement Sector Set for 30-80% Profit Surge

Q1 PREVIEW Early monsoon to hurt volume growth, but improved pricing to lift margins to near four-year high, say analysts

Nikita Periwal

Mumbai: Cement producers are expected to report 30-80% rise in profits for the June quarter, helped by an improvement in both prices and volumes. Notably, companies having greater exposure to East and South India will see a sharper improvement in profits given the comparatively steeper price hikes in these regions, analysts said.

Prices of the key building raw material rose 3% in the three months ended June—the first year-on-year increase in six quarters. On a sequential basis, prices gained for the third consecutive quarter.

At ₹377 per bag, average cement prices for the June quarter is also the highest since the December quarter of 2023. Analysts noted that certain planned price hikes had to

be rolled back due to the early onset of monsoon rains this year. "Pricing remains a key monitorable going ahead as the industry steps into the seasonally weak monsoon quarter," said Nuvama Institutional Equities.

Earlier-than-expected monsoons also restricted overall volume growth for the industry to 4-5% on-year in the June quarter. Analysts had predicted enhanced cement take-off, considering sluggish demand in the year-earlier quarter due to the general election.

Nuvoco Vistas Corp, a dominant cement producer in east India, is expected to score the sharpest



Building Growth

	EBITDA/tonne (in ₹)	
	Q1 FY26*	Q1 FY25
UltraTech Cement	1,084 - 1,277	965
Ambuja Cement	961 - 1,111	810
Shree Cement	1,380 - 1,480	951
Dalmia Bharat	1,155 - 1,182	900
Nuvoco Vistas	973 - 1,040	715

*Estimate

profit increase. In addition to single-digit growth in volumes to around 5 million tonnes, Nuvoco's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBitda) per tonne is seen rising by a third, according to analysts.

Shree Cement, India's third-largest by capacity, is expected to re-

port a 50-80% surge in quarterly net profit, while market leader UltraTech Cement could see profits growing at 35-55%. Adani Cement's profit is likely to grow 25-35% on-year, analysts said.

Profits of most cement companies will grow on a year-on-year basis buoyed by higher prices but decline sequentially due to compara-

tively lower sales in the June quarter. While the March quarter is typically the strongest for cement demand, the early onset of monsoon rains this year also weighed on consumption this year.

Companies will likely post Ebitda of ₹1,165 per tonne of cement sold, said analysts at Elara Securities, noting that this is close to a four-year high for the industry.

"With the onset of the lean season and the benefits of a benign cost environment largely behind us, we believe industry margin is set to peak in the near term in Q1FY26," the analysts said.

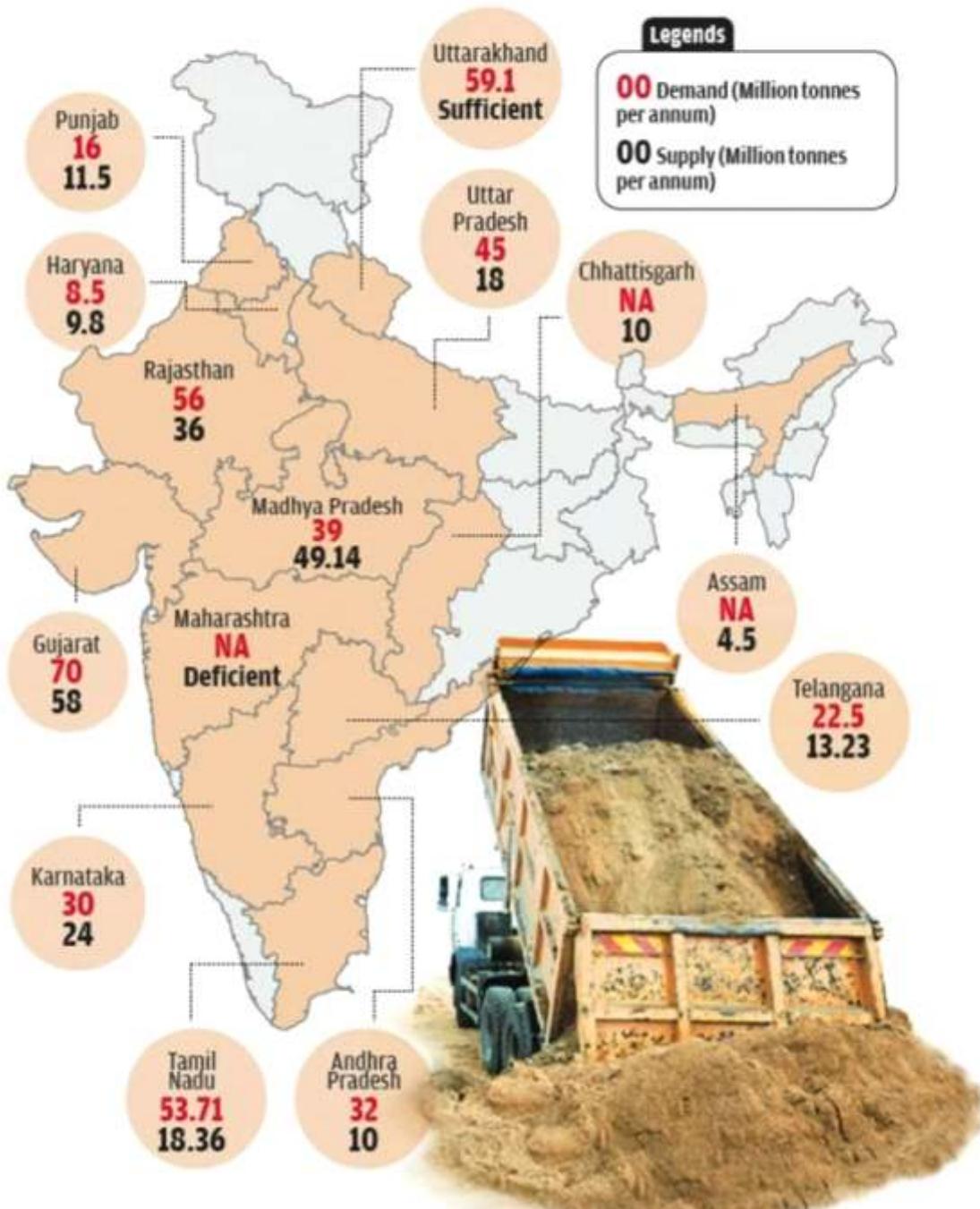
Analysts believe that with most positives for the industry priced in, companies are unlikely to see any aggressive upgrades. They though, expect consolidation in the industry to continue, with smaller capacities being lapped up by the larger rivals.



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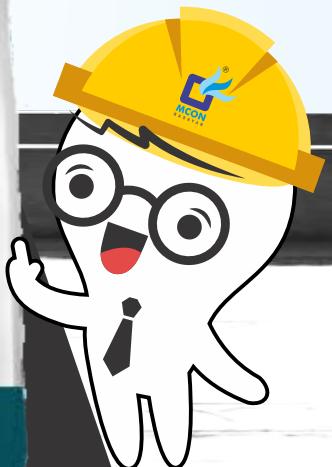
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