

CMP: INR 1,487

Rating: BUY

Target Price: INR 1,808

Stock Info

BSE	532830
NSE	Astral
Bloomberg	ASTRA IN
Reuters	ASTL.NS
Sector	Plastic Products – Industrial
Face Value (INR)	1
Mkt Cap (INR Bn)	399.46
52w H/L (INR)	1769/1270
Avg yearly Vol (in 000')	733.04

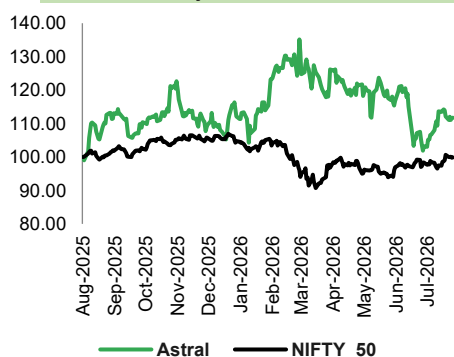
Shareholding Pattern %

(As on June, 2026)

Promoters	54.22%
Public & Others	45.78%

Stock Performance (%)	1m	6m	12m
Astral	+10.5	-8.9	-14.3
Nifty 50	+0.5	-4.5	-1.2

Astral Vs Nifty 50



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Astral reported steady Q1FY27 consolidated results. Revenue came in at INR 15.7 Bn, down 23.8% QoQ but up 16.8% YoY, 0.8% below our estimates. Gross margin stood at 40.58%, compared with 40.23% in the previous quarter and 39.38% in the corresponding quarter last year, versus our estimate of 39.9%. EBITDA came in at INR 2,312 Mn, down 39.3% QoQ but up 25.7% YoY, 0.6% below our estimate. EBITDA margin stood at 14.65%, compared with 18.33% QoQ and 13.58% YoY, versus our estimate of 14.62%. PAT came in at INR 1,202 Mn, down 43.1% QoQ but up 52.9% YoY, 0.7% below our estimate. PAT margin stood at 7.6%, compared with 10.2% QoQ and 5.82% YoY, broadly in line with our estimate of 7.61%.

Capacity Monetization & New Product Opportunities: Astral is entering the monetization phase of the significant capacity investments undertaken over the last few years, with improving utilization expected to drive operating leverage and cash generation. Kanpur is already seeing strong utilization, while Hyderabad provides meaningful headroom for growth. PEX-Al-PEX commercialization from Q3FY27 and the CPVC resin plant from Q4FY27 should add new growth opportunities, while the expanded portfolio of valves, water tanks, fire sprinklers, OPVC and other value-added products should support mix improvement.

Strong Multi-Year Growth Visibility: Management's confidence of exceeding its earlier 20–25% growth guidance reflects improving demand across Plumbing, Adhesives and Paints. End-user demand remains robust across major verticals, while geographic expansion, new products and improving capacity utilization should support growth over the coming years. With multiple businesses at different stages of scaling and profitability improvement, Astral is developing a more diversified growth profile, which should support a healthy earnings trajectory.

Diversification Driving Growth: Astral's Adhesive, Paint, Bathware and Specialty Chemicals businesses are emerging as important growth levers beyond Plumbing. Adhesive India is expected to see margin recovery as high-cost inventory normalizes and raw-material prices soften, while UK Adhesives is showing a clear profitability turnaround. Paint has reached EBITDA breakeven with strong volume growth, and DSS has delivered a healthy initial margin, providing further scope for diversification and earnings growth.

Outlook: We remain positive on Astral's medium-term outlook, supported by sustained market-share gains, sharp improvement in Plumbing demand and increasing utilization of recently commissioned capacities. MIP-led PVC price stability should improve earnings visibility, while a sustained rise in polymer prices could provide additional near-term margin upside. Adhesives, Paints, UK Adhesives and DSS provide incremental growth and profitability levers, reducing dependence on Plumbing over time. New product launches and the CPVC resin plant should further strengthen the product mix and support growth. **We have Buy rating on the stock with target price of INR 1,808**

Year-end March						
(INR Mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	51,585	56,414	58,324	65,686	78,805	94,189
EBITDA	8,099	9,183	9,459	10,619	12,868	15,945
PAT	4,725	5,456	5,189	5,347	7,245	9,355
EPS (INR)	17.0	20.3	19.5	19.9	26.9	34.8
EBITDA Margin (%)	15.7%	16.3%	16.2%	16.2%	16.3%	16.9%
EV/EBITDA	49	43	42	37	30	24
P/E (x)	88	73	76	75	55	43

Astral Ltd Q1FY27 Concall Highlights

Plumbing & Market Share

- Astral maintained flat plumbing volumes despite ~10% industry de-growth, highlighting continued market-share gains.
- Plumbing value growth remained healthy, supported by improved realizations and a favourable product mix.
- Demand improved sharply from May onwards, with ~40% volume growth in July and double-digit growth continuing into August.
- Channel restocking is supporting the recovery as dealers rebuild inventory following the implementation of MIP.
- Astral continues to gain distributors from competitors, allowing market-share expansion without significant pricing aggression.
- Kanpur plant has received strong market acceptance and is largely sold out, with expansion planned to cater to rising demand.
- Hyderabad is gradually gaining market presence and is currently operating at around 50% utilization, providing significant headroom for growth.
- The company continues to gain share across both PVC and CPVC, supported by geographic expansion and a wider product portfolio.

Margins & Raw Material Environment

- Plumbing margins expanded on the back of better utilization of newer plants and increased contribution from higher-margin plumbing products.
- Lower agri-product contribution supported the overall mix, as Astral's plumbing products carry better margins than agri products.
- Management continues to guide for 16–18% Plumbing EBITDA margin, while retaining upside potential after Q2.
- Rising PVC prices could provide additional margin tailwinds if the current trend sustains for a longer period.
- MIP implementation should reduce PVC price volatility and improve earnings visibility and forecasting ability.
- Adhesive margins were temporarily impacted by high-cost inventory accumulated during the previous quarter.
- Adhesive raw-material inflation of >15–16% was partly passed through via 6–8% price hikes, with further margin recovery expected as input costs soften.
- Q1 did not see any meaningful inventory gain/loss, while a potential Q2 inventory gain remains an upside trigger if PVC prices continue rising.

Adhesives, Paints & Bathware

- Adhesive India delivered strong growth, supported by healthy traction across rural, online and overseas markets.
- Management expects Adhesive India margins to normalize toward the 15-17% range as raw-material pressures ease.
- UK Adhesives is showing a clear turnaround, with improving growth and profitability after a challenging FY26.
- UK Adhesives is targeting 8-10% full-year EBITDA margin, indicating meaningful profitability improvement from current levels.
- Paint delivered its strongest growth since the Gem acquisition, supported by good traction across existing operating states.
- Paint volume growth was estimated at 35-40%, with the balance of growth coming from product price increases.

- Paint has reached EBITDA breakeven, while management continues to target lower-single-digit margins for FY27.
- Bathware demand is gradually improving, with new projects and developers increasingly adopting the Astral brand.

New Products, Capacity & Capital Allocation

- Astral has significantly expanded its product basket over the last few years, including water tanks, valves, fire sprinklers, OPVC, PTMT and low-noise products.
- The broader product portfolio is helping Astral diversify growth while improving the overall value mix and margins.
- The new state-of-the-art valve facility is fully operational and should support the company's value-added product strategy.
- PEX-Al-PEX machines are under installation, with trials expected by mid-September and commercial production by end-September.
- PEX-Al-PEX is expected to be a high-value, high-margin product and should start contributing from Q3FY27.
- The CPVC resin plant remains on schedule for completion by December, with trial runs and product stabilization expected in Q4.
- Astral is now entering the monetization phase of its significant investments made over the past 4-5 years, with higher utilization expected to improve cash generation.
- DSS has made a strong initial contribution, delivering 12.9% EBITDA margin in its first quarter and providing another avenue for specialty-chemical growth.

Guidance, Demand & Strategic Outlook

- Management remains confident of exceeding the earlier 20-25% full-year growth guidance following the strong Q1 performance.
- Plumbing guidance remains at double-digit volume growth, with management preferring to wait until Q2 before considering an upward revision.
- Plumbing EBITDA margin guidance remains at 16-18%, with potential upside if the current polymer environment persists.
- Adhesive India is targeting 15-20% growth, while management expects margins to recover as raw-material costs normalize.
- Paint is targeting 20-25% growth with lower-single-digit EBITDA margins as the business continues to scale.
- End-user demand remains healthy across Plumbing, Adhesives, Paints and Bathware, with management indicating that momentum has continued into Q2.
- The company expects the combination of network expansion, new products and geographic penetration to remain key drivers of market-share gains.
- The proposed demerger has been called off for now, with management indicating that the option could be reconsidered once the business reaches a substantially larger scale.

Outlook

Astral's outlook has strengthened materially with sharp recovery in Plumbing demand, continued market-share gains and improving utilization of recently commissioned plants. The combination of MIP-led PVC price stability, channel restocking and improving realizations should support Plumbing growth and earnings visibility. Adhesives and UK Adhesives are positioned for margin recovery, while Paint is moving toward a meaningful profitability inflection as scale improves. New products such as PEX-Al-PEX, the CPVC resin plant and DSS should further diversify growth and improve the overall mix. **We have Buy rating on the stock with target price of INR 1,808.**

Exhibit: Income Statement (Consol)

Year End-March	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue (Mn)						
Gross Sales	51,585	56,414	58,324	65,686	78,805	94,189
Net Sales	51,585	56,414	58,324	65,686	78,805	94,189
YoY (%)	19%	9%	3%	13%	20%	20%
Adjusted COGS	34,347	34,590	35,192	39,511	47,399	56,558
YoY (%)	19%	1%	2%	12%	20%	19%
Personnel/ Employee benefit expenses	3,193	4,384	5,179	5,904	7,085	8,185
YoY (%)	30%	37%	18%	14%	20%	16%
<i>Manufacturing & Other Expenses</i>	5,946	8,257	8,494	9,652	11,454	13,501
YoY (%)	28%	39%	3%	14%	19%	18%
Total Expenditure	43,486	47,231	48,865	55,067	65,937	78,244
YoY (%)	7%	13%	3%	12%	21%	24%
EBITDA	8,099	9,183	9,459	10,619	12,868	15,945
YoY (%)	7%	13%	3%	12%	21%	24%
EBITDA Margin (%)	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	17%
Depreciation	1,781	1,976	2,434	2,916	3,240	3,556
% of Gross Block	8%	7%	7%	8%	7%	7%
EBIT	6,318	7,207	7,025	7,703	9,628	12,389
EBIT Margin (%)	12%	13%	12%	12%	12%	13%
Interest Expenses	400	291	413	644	536	594
Non-operating/ Other income	267	421	413	473	567	678
PBT	6,152	7,336	7,025	7,306	9,660	12,473
Tax-Total	1,557	1,880	1,836	1,959	2,415	3,118
Adj. Net Profit	4,595	5,456	5,189	5,347	7,245	9,355
Reported Profit	4,725	5,456	5,189	5,347	7,245	9,355
PAT Margin	9%	10%	9%	8%	9%	10%
Shares o/s/ paid up equity sh capital	269	269	269	269	269	269
Adj EPS	17	20	19	20	27	35
Dividend payment	603	1,007	1,007	1,076	1,076	1,076
Dividend payout (%)	13%	18%	19%	20%	15%	12%
Retained earnings	3,992	4,449	4,182	4,271	6,169	8,279

Exhibit: Balance Sheet (Consol)

Year-end March	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27E	FY28E
Sources of Funds						
Equity Share Capital	269	269	269	269	269	269
Reserves & Surplus/ Other Equity	29,320	32,416	36,658	40,310	46,479	54,758
Networth	29,589	32,685	36,927	40,579	46,748	55,027
Unsecured Loans/ Borrowings/ Lease						
Liabilities	822	1,060	1,667	1,790	1,888	2,004
Other Liabilities	49	134	665	746	818	896
Total Liabilities	43,731	44,979	50,560	58,119	64,873	75,010
Total Funds Employed						
	86,657	88,876	98,920	1,13,676	1,27,080	1,47,232
Application of Funds						
Net Fixed Assets	19,505	22,994	27,116	29,394	31,852	34,726
Capital WIP	1,261	1,506	1,160	887	887	887
Investments/ Notes/ Fair value measurement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current assets	20,539	19,856	21,488	26,391	30,675	37,924
Inventory	8,746	9,134	10,111	11,173	12,358	14,626
Days	85	94	100	98	104	101
Debtors	3,545	3,758	4,353	4,751	5,881	6,977
Days	22	24	25	25	27	27
Other Current Assets	947	686	797	877	965	1,061
Cash and Cash equivalent	5,295	6,094	6,081	8,904	10,665	14,223
Current Liabilities/Provisions	13,337	11,212	11,433	14,978	15,459	17,195
Creditors / Trade Payables	8,000	8,719	8,589	11,553	11,644	12,930
Days	63	64	63	65	64	64
Liabilities	3,422	1,860	2,051	2,304	2,621	2,990
Net Current Assets	7,202	8,644	10,055	11,413	15,216	20,730
Total Asset	43,731	44,979	50,560	58,119	64,873	75,010
Total Capital Employed	36,529	36,335	40,505	46,706	49,657	54,281

Exhibit: Cash Flow (Consol)

Year End-March	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27E	FY28E
Profit After tax	4,595	5,456	5,189	5,347	7,245	9,355
Adjustments: Add						
Depreciation and amortisation	1,781	1,976	2,434	2,916	3,240	3,556
Interest adjustment	133	-130	-	171	-32	-84
Change in assets and liabilities	7,242	8,309	8,630	9,510	11,529	13,902
Inventories	-1,412	-388	-977	-1,062	-1,185	-2,269
Trade receivables	-854	-213	-595	-398	-1,130	-1,096
Trade payables	516	719	-130	2,964	91	1,286
Other Liabilities and provisions	1,437	-945	726	434	427	491
Other Assets	-444	217	-177	-97	-102	-113
Taxes	-3	-84	-77	-414	-	-
Net cash from operating activities	6,584	7,763	7,575	11,211	9,630	12,202
Net Sale/(Purchase) of tangible and intangible assets, Capital work in progress	-6,355	-5,710	-6,210	-4,921	-5,698	-6,430
Net Sale/(Purchase) of investments	267	421	413	417	567	678
Others	-108	89	-61	-154	-12	-12
Net cash (used) in investing activities	-6,196	-5,200	-5,858	-4,658	-5,143	-5,765
Interest expense	1,597	-1,594	177	-1,221	-470	-516
Dividend paid	451	603	1,007	1,076	1,076	1,076
Other financing activities	-979	-687	-900	-938	-1,076	-1,076
Net cash (used) in financing activities	15	-3,288	-1,730	-3,202	-2,622	-2,667
Closing Balance	6,821	6,096	6,083	9,434	11,300	15,070
FCF	2,452	2,064	1,366	6,045	4,058	5,972
Capex (% of sales)	4,132	5,699	6,209	3,547	3,783	4,239

Exhibit: Ratios (Consol)

Year-end March	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27E	FY28E
Solvency Ratios						
Debt / Equity	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03
Net Debt / Equity	-0.20	-0.16	-0.13	-0.19	-0.21	-0.24
Debt / EBITDA	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.14	0.12	0.11
Current Ratio	-0.75	-0.56	-0.49	-0.74	-0.75	-0.84
DuPont Analysis						
Sales/Assets	1.18	1.25	1.15	1.13	1.21	1.26
Assets/Equity	1.48	1.38	1.37	1.43	1.39	1.36
RoE	15.53%	16.69%	14.05%	14.29%	15.50%	17.00%
Per share ratios						
Reported EPS	16.97	20.30	19.47	21.56	26.93	34.78
Dividend per share	2.24	3.74	3.74	4.00	4.00	4.00
BV per share	110.00	121.51	137.28	150.85	173.78	204.56
Cash per Share	19.68	22.65	22.61	33.10	39.65	52.87
Revenue per Share	191.77	209.72	216.82	244.19	292.95	350.14
Profitability ratios						
Net Profit Margin (PAT/Net sales)	11.29%	8.91%	9.67%	8.90%	8.83%	9.19%
Gross Profit / Net Sales	33.42%	38.69%	39.66%	39.85%	39.85%	39.95%
EBITDA / Net Sales	15.70%	16.28%	16.22%	16.17%	16.33%	16.93%
EBIT / Net Sales	12.25%	12.78%	12.04%	11.73%	12.22%	13.15%
ROCE (%)	20.79%	21.34%	17.95%	17.86%	19.48%	21.43%
Activity ratios						
Inventory Days	85.44	94.34	99.80	98.31	104.29	101.39
Debtor Days	22.06	23.63	25.38	25.29	27.24	27.04
Creditor Days	62.94	64.08	63.37	65.49	63.81	64.04
Leverage ratios						
Interest coverage	15.80	24.77	17.01	11.96	17.97	20.86
Debt / Asset	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02
Valuation ratios						
EV / EBITDA	48.64	43.00	41.80	36.92	30.33	24.25
PE (x)	87.60	73.25	76.37	68.98	55.21	42.76

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Stock Rating Scale	Absolute Return
BUY	>20%
ACCUMULATE	12% to 20%
HOLD	5% to 12%
NEUTRAL	-5% to 5%
REDUCE	-5% to -12%
SELL	<-12%

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