

# Press Release GAYATRISHAKTI PAPER AND BOARDS LIMITED September 12, 2025 Rating Upgraded



Product	Quantum (Rs. Cr)	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating
Bank Loan Ratings	84.64	ACUITE A-   Stable   Upgraded	-
Non Convertible Debentures (NCD)	315.00	ACUITE A-   Stable   Upgraded	-
Bank Loan Ratings	60.00	-	ACUITE A2+   Upgraded
Total Outstanding Quantum (Rs. Cr)	459.64	-	-
Total Withdrawn Quantum (Rs. Cr)	0.00	-	-

#### **Rating Rationale**

Acuité has upgraded its long-term rating to 'ACUITE A-' (read as ACUITE A minus) from 'ACUITE BB+' (read as ACUITE double B plus) and its short-term rating to 'ACUITE A2+' (read as ACUITE A two plus) from 'ACUITE A4+' (read as ACUITE A four plus) on the Rs. 144.64 Cr. bank facilities of Gayatrishakti Paper and Boards Limited (GPBL). The outlook is 'Stable'.

Acuite has also upgraded its long term rating to 'ACUITE A-' (read as ACUITE A minus) from 'ACUITE BB+' (read as ACUITE double B plus) on the Rs. 315.00 Cr. Non Convertible Debentures (NCDs) of Gayatrishakti Paper and Boards Limited (GPBL). The outlook is 'Stable'.

#### Rationale for upgrade

The rating upgrade and migration from "Issuer Non-Cooperating takes into account the receipt of interest payment confirmation (received on Sept 05, 2025) on the Non convertible debentures' debt servicing due as on August 31, 2025, issued Gayatrishakti Paper and Boards Limited (GPBL). The rating also takes into account the stable growth in the operating revenue and profitability margins of the group. The improving financial risk profile and adequate liquidity position of the group also provides comfort to the rating. The rating is however constrained on account of working capital intensive operations of the group and susceptibility of profitability to volatile raw material prices, global realisations and demand.

#### **About the Company**

Mumbai based, Gayatrishakti Paper and Boards Limited was founded in 1996 as a public limited company and is promoted by the G.N. Agarwal group. The company manufactures premium coated paper boards (duplex board) & kraft paper. It's duplex unit is located in Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) at Vapi and kraft paper unit at Sarigam. The present directors of the company are Mr. Gajendra Nagin Agarwal, Ms. Meena Gajendra Agrawal, Mr. Mahesh Narottam Jalan, Mr. Nikhar Gajendra Agarwal, Mr. Arun Kumar Lahoti, Mr. Pralhad Mansing Aher, Mr. Vinay Doulat Parashar, Mr. Mahesh Shyamnarayan Dwivedi and Ms. Suman Agarwal.

#### **About the Group**

#### **Kherani Paper Mills Private Limited (KPMPL)**

Mumbai based Kherani Paper Mills Private Limited (KPMPL) was originally incorporated in 1988 and subsequently takenover by the present management i.e. G.N. Agarwal Group in the year 1992. It is engaged in the manufacturing of duplex board in different grammages ranging from 180 GSM to 550 GSM. Its factory is situated at Vapi, Gujarat with a manufacturing capacity of the plant is 48,000 MTPA. The present directors of the company



#### Gayatrishakti Tissue Private Limited (GTPL)

Incorporated in 2022, GTPL is a subsidiary of GPBL, engaged in manufacturing of virgin and non-virgin tissue papers. Situated in Vapi, the plant has a manufacturing capacity of 36,000 MTPA. The company is promoted by Mr. Gajendra Nagin Agarwal and Ms. Meena Gajendra Agrawal.

#### **Unsupported Rating**

Not Applicable

#### **Analytical Approach**

#### **Extent of Consolidation**

•Full Consolidation

#### Rationale for Consolidation or Parent / Group / Govt. Support

To arrive at the rating, Acuité has consolidated the business and financial risk profiles of Gayatrishakti Paper and Boards Limited (GPBL), Kherani Paper Mills Private Limited (KPMPL) and Gayatrishakti Tissue Private Limited (GTPL), hereinafter referred to as G.N. Agarwal group. The consolidation is on account of common management, significant crossholdings, similar line of business and significant financial linkages among the three entities.

#### **Key Rating Drivers**

#### Strengths

#### Established track record of operations and experienced management

GPBL is the flagship company of the G. N. Agarwal group, which is engaged in the manufacturing of premium coated paper boards (duplex boards). The chairman and managing director of the company, Mr. G. N. Agarwal, has been associated with the paper industry for more than three decades. The extensive experience of the promoters and the management has helped the company build a strong presence in the market thereby establishing healthy relationships with its consumers. The group has an established track record with large distribution network of dealers providing access to a wide range of packaging industries such as food products, personal care, FMCG products, oral care and hygiene products, and the e-commerce industry, among others.

Acuité believes that the group will continue to benefit from its extensive experience in the paper industry and established market presence through a healthy network of dealers and distributors.

#### **Stable operating performance**

While the volumes of the paper business have declined marginally due to cheap imports, the operating revenue of group improved to Rs. 1,152.04 Cr. in FY2025 (Prov.) as against Rs. 1,049.59 Cr. in FY2024, majorly on account of commencement of commercial operations of GTPL's tissue plant in November 2024. The operating margin also improved to 11.49 percent in FY2025 (Prov.) from 10.59 percent in FY2024 due to decline in material and power costs and better realisations (especially in the tissue business). The PAT margin stood at 3.31 percent in FY2025 (Prov.) as against 2.34 percent in FY2024.

Going forward, the operating revenues and margins are expected to improve significantly in FY2026 with full year operations of the tissue business and continued stable operations of the paper business.

#### Improving financial risk profile

The tangible networth of the group improved to Rs. 346.00 Cr. on March 31, 2025 (Prov.) from Rs. 257.41 Cr. on March 31, 2024 on account of equity infusion in GPBL and GTPL (~Rs. 26.52 Cr.) and accretion of profits. This increase in networth has led to a marginal decline in the gearing which stood at 1.93 times on March 31, 2025 (Prov.) as against 1.99 times on March 31, 2024 (Prov.). The TOL/TNW levels also stood improved at 2.70 times as against 3.09 times on March 31, 2024. However, the debt protection metrics stood moderate with Debt-EBITDA levels of 4.96 times on March 31, 2025 (Prov.) (4.57 times on March 31, 2024), interest coverage ratio (ICR) of 2.45 times in FY2025 (Prov.) (2.43 times in FY2024) and debt service coverage ratio (DSCR) of 1.06 times in FY2025 (Prov.) (0.96 times in FY2024) respectively. Moreover, in April 2025, GPBL raised NCDs of Rs 315 Cr. with an elongated maturity period upto 2033 to refinance its existing debt and utilise for working capital requirements.

Therefore, with increasing accruals and elongation of the repayment period through NCDs, the overall financial risk profile of the group is expected to improve further.

#### Weaknesses

#### Working capital intensive operations

The operations of the group are working capital intensive, as evident from gross current asset (GCA) of 138 days on March 31, 2025 (Prov.) as against 114 days on March 31, 2024. The GCA are majorly driven by high inventory and debtor days which stood at 60 days each on March 31, 2025 (Prov.) (51 days and 56 days respectively on March 31, 2024) to maintain the requisite stock and customer relations. Further, the overall bank limit utilisation stood at 81.39 percent for the last six months ended March 2025. The current ratio of the group stood at 1.36 times on March 31, 2025 (Prov.).

Going forward, restriction in elongation of the working capital cycle will be a key rating sensitivity.

#### Susceptibility of margins to fluctuations in raw material prices and competition from global markets

The paper manufacturers in India are exposed to the risk of volatility in wastepaper prices, given the limited availability of quality fibres and international pricing changes as majority of the waste paper is imported in India. Therefore, the profitability remains susceptible to raw material price fluctuations, however, the group protects its margin through pass through of such changes to its customers. Further, the domestic paper industry is also exposed to intense competition from global players with cheap imports from countries like Indonesia, China, Chile, etc. which affect their sales volumes and price realizations.

#### **ESG Factors Relevant for Rating**

On the environment front, group has restored to clean sources of energy like solar power for running its plants to save power emissions. In its new tissue manufacturing facility, the group has installed a waste to energy boiler, which uses plastic waste to generate steam. Further, the group has an effluent treatment plant system for treatment of water. On the social front, the group has developed healthy employment practices such as insurance benefits, health and safety policies, corporate social responsibility programs for upskilling, vocational training, gender equality and rural development. It also promotes gender diversity and inclusivity.

On the governance front, the group has adopted requirement of corporate governance from provision of Companies Act 2013. The board of directors comprises of professionals having expertise and experience in the industry with one executive director, two non-executive directors and two of independent directors. Further, the group has constituted an audit committee and developed whistleblower policy to ensure a healthy governance mechanism.

#### **Rating Sensitivities**

- Significant growth in operating revenue while sustaining profitability margins.
- Improved cash accrual generation and absence of any significant debt raise leading to improvement in the coverage indicators
- Elongation in the working capital cycle affecting the liquidity of the group

#### All Covenants

- Issuer to have minimum EBITDA of Rs. 105.00 Cr. at standalone levels and Rs. 160.00 Cr. at consolidated levels from FY2026 onwards.
- Gross Debt-EBITDA shall not exceed 4.00 times at standalone level and 4.50 times at consolidated level as on March 2026 and 3.75 times and 4.00 times respectively from March 2027 onwards.
- Over all long term debt of the issuer shall not exceed Rs. 315 Cr at standalone level and Rs. 580.00 Cr at consolidated level.
- Total debt including working capital and unsecured debt shall not exceed Rs. 800.00 Cr. at a consolidated level at any point of time, excluding debt availed from any member of the promoter group.
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio should be greater than 1.10 times at all times until the final settlement date.
- Security cover of 2.00 times the value of the outstanding principal plus accrued interest/obligations if any of should be maintained at all times until the redemption of the Senior series debentures.

#### **Liquidity Position**

#### Adequate

The adequate liquidity position of the group is supported by the generation of net cash accruals (NCAs) of Rs. 70.91 Cr. against maturing repayment obligations of Rs. 64.03 Cr. in FY2025 (Prov.). Going forward, the NCAs are expected to remain in the range of Rs. 80 - 95 Cr. with maturing repayments in the range of Rs. 18 - 34 Cr. for FY2026 and FY2027. The overall bank limit utilisation stood at 81.39 percent for the last six months ended March 2025. The current ratio of the group stood moderate at 1.36 times on March 31, 2025 (Prov.). Furthermore, the group had cash and bank balance of Rs. 19.64 Cr. on March 31, 2025 (Prov.).

**Outlook: Stable** 

Other Factors affecting Rating None

#### **Key Financials**

Particulars	Unit	FY 25 (Provisional)	FY 24 (Actual)
Operating Income	Rs. Cr.	1152.04	1049.59
PAT	Rs. Cr.	38.14	24.56
PAT Margin	(%)	3.31	2.34
Total Debt/Tangible Net Worth	Times	1.93	1.99
PBDIT/Interest	Times	2.45	2.43

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA (if applicable)

Not Applicable

#### **Any Other Information**

A routine survey and search was conducted by the officials of the Income Tax department on September 02, 2025 at the premises of the group. As understood by Acuite, the survey and search operations carried by the officials was an industry wide routine survey.

#### Applicable Criteria

- Application Of Financial Ratios And Adjustments: https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-53.htm
- Consolidation Of Companies: https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-60.htm
- Default Recognition: https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-52.htm
- Manufacturing Entities: https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-59.htm

#### Note on complexity levels of the rated instrument

In order to inform the investors about complexity of instruments, Acuité has categorized such instruments in three levels: Simple, Complex and Highly Complex. Acuite's categorisation of the instruments across the three categories is based on factors like variability of the returns to the investors, uncertainty in cash flow patterns, number of counterparties and general understanding of the instrument by the market. It has to be understood that complexity is different from credit risk and even an instrument categorized as 'Simple' can carry high levels of risk. For more details, please refer Rating Criteria "Complexity Level Of Financial Instruments" on <a href="https://www.acuite.in">www.acuite.in</a>.

### **Rating History**

Date	Name of Instruments/Facilities	Term	Amount (Rs. Cr)	Rating/Outlook
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	14.75	ACUITE A4+ (Downgraded & Issuer not co-operating* from ACUITE A2+)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	25.20	ACUITE A4+ (Downgraded & Issuer not co-operating* from ACUITE A2+)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	20.05	ACUITE A4+ (Downgraded & Issuer not co-operating* from ACUITE A2+)
04 Sep 2025	Cash Credit	Long Term	36.00	ACUITE BB+ (Downgraded & Issuer not co-operating* from ACUITE A-   Stable)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	30.00	ACUITE BB+ (Downgraded & Issuer not co-operating* from ACUITE A-   Stable)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	18.64	ACUITE BB+ (Downgraded & Issuer not co-operating* from ACUITE A-   Stable)
	Non-Covertible Debentures (NCD)	Long Term	215.00	ACUITE BB+ (Downgraded & Issuer not co-operating* from ACUITE A-   Stable)
	Non-Covertible Debentures (NCD)	Long Term	100.00	ACUITE BB+ (Downgraded & Issuer not co-operating* from ACUITE A-   Stable)
	Non-Covertible Debentures (NCD)	Long Term	215.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Assigned)
	Non-Covertible Debentures (NCD)	Long Term	100.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Assigned)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	36.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	18.64	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	30.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	25.20	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	20.05	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	14.75	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
05 Jun	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	15.00	ACUITE Not Applicable (Withdrawn)
2025	Term Loan	Long Term	10.00	ACUITE Not Applicable (Withdrawn)
	Term Loan	Long Term	51.25	ACUITE Not Applicable (Withdrawn)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	24.00	ACUITE Not Applicable (Withdrawn)
	Term Loan	Long Term	73.43	ACUITE Not Applicable (Withdrawn)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	16.00	ACUITE Not Applicable (Withdrawn)
	Term Loan	Long Term	19.37	ACUITE Not Applicable (Withdrawn)
	Term Loan	Long Term	28.18	ACUITE Not Applicable (Withdrawn)
	Term Loan	Long Term	7.60	ACUITE Not Applicable (Withdrawn)
	Proposed Long Term Bank Facility	Long Term	47.78	ACUITE Not Applicable (Withdrawn)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	16.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Proposed Long Term Bank Facility	Long Term	47.78	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	15.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)

	Term Loan	Long Term	10.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Term Loan	Long Term	7.60	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	36.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	30.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
05 Jul 2024	Cash Credit	Long Term	18.64	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
2024	Term Loan	Long Term	51.25	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Term Loan	Long Term	19.37	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Term Loan	Long Term	73.43	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Term Loan	Long Term	28.18	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	24.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	14.75	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	25.20	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	20.05	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	36.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	30.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	18.64	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Term Loan	Long Term	66.25	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Term Loan	Long Term	25.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Term Loan	Long Term	93.64	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
02 Jun 2023	Term Loan	Long Term	36.44	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	24.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	16.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Proposed Long Term Bank Facility	Long Term	31.28	ACUITE A-   Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	14.75	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	25.20	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	20.05	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	36.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Upgraded from ACUITE BBB+   Stable)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	30.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Upgraded from ACUITE BBB+   Stable)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	18.64	ACUITE A-   Stable (Upgraded from ACUITE BBB+   Stable)
	Term Loan	Long Term	77.50	ACUITE A-   Stable (Upgraded from ACUITE BBB+   Stable)
	Term Loan	Long Term	25.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Upgraded from ACUITE BBB+   Stable)
		Long		ACUITE A-   Stable (Upgraded from ACUITE BBB+

20.0	Term Loan	Term	107.50	Stable)
28 Sep 2022			42.62	ACUITE A-   Stable (Upgraded from ACUITE BBB+   Stable)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	2.38	ACUITE A-   Stable (Upgraded from ACUITE BBB+   Stable)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	24.00	ACUITE A-   Stable (Upgraded from ACUITE BBB+   Stable)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	13.61	ACUITE A-   Stable (Upgraded from ACUITE BBB+   Stable)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	14.75	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	25.20	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	20.05	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	14.75	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	25.20	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Letter of Credit	Short Term	20.05	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	36.00	ACUITE BBB+   Stable (Downgraded from ACUITE A-     Stable)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	30.00	ACUITE BBB+   Stable (Downgraded from ACUITE A-   Stable)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	18.64	ACUITE BBB+   Stable (Downgraded from ACUITE A-   Stable)
19 Sep 2022	Term Loan	Long Term	77.50	ACUITE BBB+   Stable (Downgraded from ACUITE A-   Stable)
	Term Loan	Long Term	25.00	ACUITE BBB+   Stable (Downgraded from ACUITE A-   Stable)
	Term Loan	Long Term	107.50	ACUITE BBB+   Stable (Downgraded from ACUITE A-     Stable)
	Term Loan	Long Term	42.62	ACUITE BBB+   Stable (Downgraded from ACUITE A-   Stable)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	2.38	ACUITE BBB+   Stable (Downgraded from ACUITE A-   Stable)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	24.00	ACUITE BBB+   Stable (Assigned)
	Working Capital Demand Loan (WCDL)	Long Term	13.61	ACUITE BBB+   Stable (Assigned)

#### Annexure - Details of instruments rated

Lender's Name	ISIN	Facilities	Date Of Issuance	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date	Quantum (Rs. Cr.)	Complexity Level	Kaung
Bank of India	Not avl. / Not appl.	Cash Credit	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	36.00	Simple	ACUITE A-   Stable   Upgraded ( from ACUITE BB+ )
IDBI Bank Ltd.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Cash Credit	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	30.00	Simple	ACUITE A-   Stable   Upgraded ( from ACUITE BB+ )
Punjab National Bank	Not avl. / Not appl.	Cash Credit	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	18.64	Simple	ACUITE A-   Stable   Upgraded ( from ACUITE BB+ )
Bank of India	Not avl. / Not appl.	Letter of Credit	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	14.75	Simple	ACUITE A2+   Upgraded ( from ACUITE A4+ )
IDBI Bank Ltd.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Letter of Credit	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	25.20	Simple	ACUITE A2+   Upgraded ( from ACUITE A4+ )
Punjab National Bank	Not avl. / Not appl.	Letter of Credit	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	20.05	Simple	ACUITE A2+   Upgraded ( from ACUITE A4+ )
Not Applicable	INE612F07028	Non- Convertible Debentures (NCD)	01 Apr 2025	16	01 Apr 2033	215.00	Simple	ACUITE A-   Stable   Upgraded ( from ACUITE BB+ )
Not Applicable	INE612F07010	Non- Convertible Debentures (NCD)	01 Apr 2025	11.5	01 Apr 2032	100.00	Simple	ACUITE A-   Stable   Upgraded ( from ACUITE BB+ )

\*Annexure 2 - List of Entities (applicable for Consolidation or Parent / Group / Govt. Support)

Sr. No.	Company Name
1	Gayatrishakti Paper and Boards Limited
2	Kherani Paper Mills Private Limited
3	Gayatrishakti Tissue Private Limited

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#### About Acuité Ratings & Research

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