

India Ratings Revises Outlook on Shree Renuka Sugars's NCDs and Bank Facilities to Negative; Affirms 'IND A'; Rates Additional Limits

Mar 27, 2025 | Sugar

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised the Outlook on Shree Renuka Sugars Limited's (SRSL) debt instruments to Negative from Stable while affirming the ratings as follows:

Details of Instruments

Instrument Description	Date of Issuance	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date	Size of Issue (million)	Rating Assigned along with Outlook/Watch#	Rating Action
Fund-based/non-fund-based working capital limit	-	-	-	INR7,800	IND A/Negative/IND A1	Affirmed; Outlook revised to Negative from Stable
Fund-based/non-fund-based working capital limit	-	-	-	INR8,400	IND A/Negative/IND A1	Assigned
Non-convertible debenture*	-	-	-	INR4,665 (reduced from INR4,772)	IND A/Negative	Affirmed; Outlook revised to Negative from Stable
Short-term loans	-	-	-	INR4,000	IND A1	Affirmed
Term loan^	-	-	31 March 2028	INR3,338 (reduced from INR5,293)	IND A/Negative	Affirmed; Outlook revised to Negative from Stable

*Details in Annexure

^Outstanding as on 31 December 2024

Analytical Approach

Ind-Ra continues to factor in SRSL's strong operational, strategic and legal linkages with its ultimate parent, Wilmar International Limited (Wilmar), and the continued strong support it receives from the latter, to arrive at the ratings. Furthermore, with the completion of the acquisition of Anamika Sugar Mills Pvt. Ltd. (Anamika) and the completion of the divestment of a minority stake of its subsidiary, Renuka Commodities DMCC, in Shree Renuka Global Ventures Ltd, Mauritius, which housed the Brazilian operations, the agency has now taken a fully consolidated view of SRSL and its subsidiaries to arrive at the ratings, owing to the operating and strategic linkages among them. The agency had earlier taken a standalone approach while factoring in the modest impact from the proposed merger of four of SRSL's subsidiaries (Gokak Sugars Limited, Monica Trading Private Limited, Shree Renuka Agri Ventures Limited and Shree Renuka Tunaport Private Limited) and the acquisition of Anamika. While the other three entities were merged in December 2024, Gokak's merger is in process, owing to pending approvals.

Detailed Rationale of the Rating Action

The Outlook revision reflects the likely deterioration in SRSL's credit profile in FYE25 with a sharp increase in external debt, mainly on account of its external commercial borrowing (ECB) taken to refinance the parent's ECB which was due in 1HFY26, in addition to an increase in its working capital limits. While the total debt is likely to remain range-bound, the external debt is likely to increase to over 2x yoy in FY25. However, Ind-Ra takes some comfort from the corporate guarantee (CG) extended by Wilmar to the ECB, its bullet repayment in FY30 and lower finance cost than that for Wilmar's ECB. While the entire external debt at FYE24 were covered by the CG of Wilmar, the new working capital facilities availed by SRSL in FY25 are secured by a comfort letter from Wilmar and are a part of the respective lenders' global exposure to the Wilmar group. Wilmar continues to provide support to SRSL in the form of trade advances and extended credit periods for raw sugar purchases, which increased to INR43.1 billion at FYE24 (FYE23: INR16.8 billion; FYE22: INR11.1 billion) and INR43.8 billion at end-December 2024, indicating the parent's strong ability and willingness to support SRSL. Wilmar's management has confirmed its willingness to provide support to SRSL as and when needed. While the creditors are interest bearing, the management stated that continued flexibility is available to service Wilmar's obligations as needed.

The ratings continue to reflect SRSL's comfortable business profile, supported by its large scale and integrated facilities. Its EBITDA grew in FY24, mainly led by higher refining spreads and could witness a continued improvement in FY25. While cane costs are likely to continue increasing, Ind-Ra expects domestic sugar prices to strengthen in FY26 given the likely reduction in India's sugar inventory to normative levels in the sugar season 2025 (October-September). After a decline to around USD100/metric tonne (mt) in January 2025, refining spreads recovered to around USD120/mt in mid-March 2025 and would be a key driver of SRSL's EBITDA for FY26. Ind-Ra believes SRSL's ability to improve its EBITDA levels over FY25-FY26 while gradually reducing external debt would be critical to improve the credit metrics. Ind-Ra believes the existing working capital support from Wilmar would continue, providing adequate liquidity to service the external debt obligations given the existence of sufficient unused working capital lines and internal accruals.

List of Key Rating Drivers

Strengths

- Strong linkages with parent
- Continued tangible support demonstrated by strong parent
- Leading sugar producer with strong presence in branded sugar
- EBITDA likely to revive in 4QFY25, supported by healthy spreads in refinery

Weaknesses

- Deterioration in credit metrics after ECB refinancing; improvement contingent on EBITDA growth
- Susceptibility to currency fluctuations; high working capital intensity

Detailed Description of Key Rating Drivers

Strong Linkages with Parent: SRSL is a step-down subsidiary of Wilmar (through Wilmar Sugar and Energy Pte. Ltd). With a 62.5% shareholding as on 31 December 2024, Wilmar has the full management control of SRSL, with the latter's board including Wilmar's chairman, group chief financial officer and its group sugar head. The operational ties between the entities are driven by the overlap in SRSL and Wilmar's businesses, as sugar is one of the three key business segments of Wilmar, with tropical oils and grains being the other two. SRSL accounts for around 20% of Wilmar's total sugar capacity and is the second-largest sugar entity in the group and a key player in the group's overall refined sugar exports business. SRSL procures a major portion of its raw sugar requirement for the refining business from Wilmar at competitive prices and credit terms.

The strategic linkages between the entities are also strengthened by the fact that Wilmar remains focused on the sugar sector, with a view to widen its consumer product portfolio and increase its wallet share in the populated markets such as India. Notwithstanding the reduction due to the repayment of the ECB, Wilmar's total investment in SRSL remained at INR64 billion as of 9MFY25 (FY24: INR88 billion; FY23: INR61 billion; FY22: INR54 billion), in addition to which it had extended loans to SRSL's subsidiary, Renuka Commodities DMCC, Dubai, (9MFY25 and FY24: INR12.5 billion), indicating the latter's strategic importance and Wilmar's strong willingness to support. Apart from this, it has extended a CG of over

INR40 billion to SRSL as of December 2024 (March 2024: around INR20 billion), covering over 95% of the latter's external debt (FY24: 96%; FY23-FY22: around 85%), supporting the legal linkages. However, with the addition of new working capital lines in SRSL and term debt at Anamika that do not carry a CG, around 85%-90% of the external debt is likely to be covered by a guarantee over FY25-FY26. However, these new working capital limits are part of the lenders' global exposure towards Wilmar, which stated that it would continue its commitment to support SRSL.

Continued Tangible Support Demonstrated by Strong Parent: The loans from Wilmar accounted for 22% of SRSL's total consolidated debt of INR55.8 billion as of 9MFY25 (FYE24: 65% and INR57.7 billion), due to the refinancing of Wilmar's ECB by an external ECB. In August 2020, Wilmar had extended an ECB worth USD300 million with a bullet maturity at the end of five years, largely to prepay SRSL's restructured debt. This loan has been refinanced by raising another ECB from a bank in August 2024 at a slightly lower interest rate, leading to a reduction in the debt extended by the parent. Wilmar continues to provide support to SRSL in the form of trade advances and extended credit periods for raw sugar purchases, which increased to INR43.8 billion at 9MFYE25 (FYE24: INR43.1 billion; FYE23: INR16.8 billion; FYE22: INR11.1 billion). While these are interest bearing, the management stated that flexibility is available to service Wilmar's obligations as needed.

Wilmar is a leading branded consumer pack oil, specialty fat and oleochemical producer and edible oil refiner in the world, with over 1,000 manufacturing plants and an extensive distribution network covering over 50 countries. Wilmar's revenue remained flat at USD67.4 billion in 2024 (January-December; 2023: USD67.2 billion; 2022: USD73.4 billion), with range-bound operating margins of 5.8% (5.9%; 6.4%) and net debt of USD18.6 billion (USD17.7 billion; USD18.7 billion). The proforma net leverage (net debt/EBITDA) increased to 4.8x in 2024 (2023: 4.5x; 2022: 4.0x). It also had unutilised banking facilities of USD31.7 billion at end-December 2024.

Leading Sugar Producer with Strong Presence in Branded Sugar: SRSL (along with its subsidiaries- Gokak and AS MPL) has the fourth-largest sugar manufacturing capacity in India and is a leading supplier of ethanol to oil marketing companies. SRSL has an operating track record of over two decades in the sugar business, and is geographically diversified, with a presence in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Besides, the company is the leading sugar refiner in the country. SRSL's Madhur is one of the leading sugar brands in the country, with a share of around one-third of the branded sugar market, according to the management. Branded sale volumes, which yield higher margins, have grown significantly over the past couple of years, with the sales volumes forming 30% of total sales in 9MFY25 (FY24: 38%).

EBITDA likely to Revive in 4QFY25, supported by Healthy Spreads in Refinery: SRSL's consolidated EBITDA grew to INR7 billion in FY24 (FY23: INR5.7 billion; FY22: INR3.8 billion), owing to a rise in profitability from the refinery division. While its operating EBITDA declined 20% yoy to INR3.6 billion in 9MFY25, owing to a fall in the distillery and the milling businesses with an increase in cane costs and lower ethanol sales, the company is likely to see a pick-up in it in 4QFY25 given higher sales of both sugar and ethanol, supporting the EBITDA for FY25. The company sold around 45 million litres (mnL) of syrup-based ethanol in 9MFY25 (9MFY24: 28mnL) while B-heavy based ethanol sales reduced to 10mnL (58mnL). SRSL had an order book of 46mnL of ethanol (all syrup-based) to be sold in 2Q-3Q of ESY25, which is likely to boost volumes for the next two quarters. While the fair and remunerative price of sugarcane was increased around 8% yoy to INR340/quintal for SS25, the average domestic sugar prices were up only 2% yoy up during 9MFY25, given the high opening inventory. However, a lower sugar production and the allowance of exports are likely to reduce the country's inventory, Ind-Ra expects the prices to improve in the near term (February 2025: INR40/kg; February 2024: INR37.5/kg), supporting SRSL's profitability.

The refining margins increased to 8.8% in 9MFY25 (9MFY24: 6.6%) despite a softening in the international refining spreads due to hedging measures adopted by the management to lock in the prices. After a decline to around USD100/mt in January 2025, its refining spreads recovered to around USD120/mt in mid-March 2025 and would be a key driver for SRSL's EBITDA for FY26. The group's revenue remained flat at INR82 billion in 9MFY25 (9MFY24: INR80 billion; FY24: INR113.3 billion) despite a 20% yoy fall in ethanol sales to 94mnL (9MFY24: 118mnL) given the lower crushing and restrictions on sugar diversion, as there was a substantial increase in sugar sales to 0.42mnt (9MFY24: 0.28mnt).

Deterioration in Credit Metrics after ECB refinancing; Improvement Contingent on EBITDA Growth: Of SRSL's total outstanding debt of INR57.7 billion as of March 2024 (FYE23: INR43.1 billion; FYE22: INR41.3 billion), 65% (57%; 54%)

was in the form of ECB of USD300 million, extended by Wilmar largely to prepay the former's restructured debt. However, with refinancing of the ECB, the external debt shot up to INR42.9 billion at end-December 2024 (FYE24: INR20.3 billion). Thus, after reducing to 2.8x in FY24 (FY23: 3.1x; FY22: 5.0x), the consolidated external net leverage (net debt excluding debt from parent/ operating EBITDA) shot up to 6.9x at end-December 2024 and is likely to remain elevated in FY25. Similarly, the interest coverage on external debt (EBITDA/interest on external debt) weakened to 1.6x in 9MFY25 (9MFY24: 3.2x; FY24: 3.6x; FY23: 3.4x). Ind-Ra opines that SRSL's ability to improve its EBITDA levels over FY25-FY26 while gradually reducing external debt would be critical to improve the credit metrics. The management expects an increase in SRSL's EBITDA to lead to a significant improvement in its credit metrics in FY26. Ind-Ra continues to adjust the credit metrics for the parent debt/advances, given the flexibility on servicing the same. The overall interest coverage stood at 0.6x in 9MFY25 (FY24: 0.8x; FY23: 1.1x), while the total net adjusted leverage came in at 8.9x (8.2x; 7.4x) and is likely to remain elevated in the near term as the balance sheet remains debt-heavy, owing to legacy pre-restructuring losses.

Susceptibility to Currency Fluctuations; High Working Capital Intensity: While SRSL has a natural hedge for its refining business, there is a significant timing mismatch, as the raw sugar procurement largely takes place through Wilmar at extended credit periods while receivables do not exceed one-to-one-and-a-half months. SRSL registered a forex loss of INR0.5 billion in 9MFY25 (FY24: loss of INR0.3 billion; FY23: loss of INR0.7 billion; FY22: loss of INR0.3 billion). The forex policy is aligned to that of the parent. All of the raw sugar stock is hedged and is imported from Wilmar only.

Sugar, being an agro-based industry, is prone to vagaries of monsoons. Also, as sugar is an essential commodity, it faces a high level of government intervention. Furthermore, the sugar business is inherently a working capital-intensive business, given the seasonality in the industry and has higher levels of inventory holding, which peaks in March-April. The sugar industry is highly regulated, with sugar defined as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Accordingly, the government intervenes using various measures such as monthly sales quota, export restrictions to prevent imbalance in sugar demand-supply and keep the prices in check. The government determines and fixes the remuneration (fair and remunerative prices) payable on sugarcane to the farmers before the start of the sugar season.

Liquidity

Adequate: SRSL's high financial flexibility is driven by the presence of a strong parent that has constantly infused funds to support the former's liquidity. Furthermore, SRSL is likely to generate sufficient cash flows to meet its external debt obligations (including scheduled annual repayments of INR2 billion in FY25 and FY26 each) in the near term. The total cash and cash equivalents, stood at INR0.7 billion at end-December 2024 (FYE24: INR0.4 billion; FYE23: INR0.7 billion). SRSL's average utilisation of its INR7.8 billion (increased to INR12 billion in December 2024) fund-based working capital limits was about 72% in the 12 months ended December 2024, indicating some liquidity cushion. Despite an increase in inventory levels to INR42 billion in FYE24 (FYE23: INR22 billion), SRSL's cash flow from operations at standalone level remained flat at INR4.8 billion (INR4.6 billion), owing to support extended by its parent in form of trade payables of INR43 billion (INR16.8 billion).

Rating Sensitivities

Positive: An increase in EBITDA and/or a reduction in external debt leading to an improvement in the credit metrics with the interest coverage (on external debt) exceeding 2.25x and the net leverage (on external debt) reducing below 5.5x, on sustainable basis, along with maintenance of strong linkages with the parent could lead to a revision in Outlook to Stable.

Negative: Weaker-than-expected EBITDA and/or an increase in external debt, leading to the net leverage (on external debt) exceeding 5.5x and the interest coverage (on external debt) falling below 2.25x, on a sustained basis, could lead to a negative rating action. Additionally, any weakening of linkages and/or support from Wilmar will lead to a negative rating action.

Disclosures for CE Rating

1) Unsupported Rating

Ind-Ra has revised the Outlook on the unsupported rating to Negative from Stable while affirming the rating at 'IND A'.

Ind-Ra has disclosed the unsupported rating in compliance with the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) master circular dated 3 July 2023. Securities backed by specified support considerations, as mentioned in the circular, rated with or without a CE-suffix would require disclosing unsupported ratings without factoring in the explicit credit enhancement (CE) from the specified support consideration.

The unsupported rating is arrived at without factoring in the explicit CE. It helps in understanding the extent of CE factored into the instrument rating.

Analytical Approach

The analytical approach for the unsupported rating is the same as that for the bank loan facility ratings.

Detailed Rationale of the Rating Action

The detailed rationale of the rating action for the unsupported rating is the same as that for the bank loan facility ratings.

List of Key Rating Drivers

Strengths

- Strong linkages with parent
- Continued tangible support demonstrated by strong parent
- Leading sugar producer with strong presence in branded sugar
- EBITDA likely to revive in 4QFY25, supported by healthy spreads in refinery

Weaknesses

- Deterioration in credit metrics after ECB refinancing; improvement contingent on EBITDA growth
- Susceptibility to currency fluctuations; high working capital intensity

Detailed Description of Key Rating Driver

Strong Linkages with Parent: SRSL is a step-down subsidiary of Wilmar (through Wilmar Sugar and Energy Pte. Ltd). With a 62.5% shareholding as on 31 December 2024, Wilmar has the full management control of SRSL, with the latter's board including Wilmar's chairman, group chief financial officer and its group sugar head. The operational ties between the entities are driven by the overlap in SRSL and Wilmar's businesses, as sugar is one of the three key business segments of Wilmar, with tropical oils and grains being the other two. SRSL accounts for around 20% of Wilmar's total sugar capacity and is the second-largest sugar entity in the group and a key player in the group's overall refined sugar exports business. SRSL procures a major portion of its raw sugar requirement for the refining business from Wilmar at competitive prices and credit terms.

The strategic linkages between the entities are also strengthened by the fact that Wilmar remains focused on the sugar sector, with a view to widen its consumer product portfolio and increase its wallet share in the populated markets such as India. Notwithstanding the reduction due to the repayment of the ECB, Wilmar's total investment in SRSL remained at INR64 billion as of 9MFY25 (FY24: INR88 billion; FY23: INR61 billion; FY22: INR54 billion), in addition to which it had extended loans to SRSL's subsidiary, Renuka Commodities DMCC, Dubai, (9MFY25 and FY24: INR12.5 billion), indicating the latter's strategic importance and Wilmar's strong willingness to support. Apart from this, it has extended a CG for a large part of the debt supporting the legal linkages, but new working capital lines in SRSL and term debt at Anamika do not carry a CG. However, these new working capital limits are a part of the lenders' global exposure towards Wilmar, which stated that it would continue its commitment to support SRSL.

Continued Tangible Support Demonstrated by Strong Parent: The loans from Wilmar accounted for 22% of SRSL's total consolidated debt of INR55.8 billion as of 9MFY25 (FYE24: 65% and INR57.7 billion), due to the refinancing of Wilmar's ECB by an external ECB. In August 2020, Wilmar had extended an ECB worth USD300 million with a bullet maturity at the end of five years, largely to prepay SRSL's restructured debt. This loan has been refinanced by raising another ECB from a bank in August 2024 at a slightly lower interest rate, leading to a reduction in the debt extended by the parent. Wilmar continues to provide support to SRSL in the form of trade advances and extended credit periods for raw sugar purchases, which increased to INR43.8 billion at 9MFYE25 (FYE24: INR43.1 billion; FYE23: INR16.8 billion; FYE22: INR11.1 billion). While these are interest bearing, the management stated that flexibility is available to service Wilmar's obligations as needed.

Wilmar is a leading branded consumer pack oil, specialty fat and oleochemical producer and edible oil refiner in the world, with over 1,000 manufacturing plants and an extensive distribution network covering over 50 countries. Wilmar's revenue remained flat at USD67.4 billion in 2024 (January-December; 2023: USD67.2 billion; 2022: USD73.4 billion), with range-bound operating margins of 5.8% (5.9%; 6.4%) and net debt of USD18.6 billion (USD17.7 billion; USD18.7 billion). The proforma net leverage (net debt/EBITDA) increased to 4.8x in 2024 (2023: 4.5x; 2022: 4.0x). It also had unutilised banking facilities of USD31.7 billion at end-December 2024.

Leading Sugar Producer with Strong Presence in Branded Sugar: SRSL (along with its subsidiaries- Gokak and ASMPL) has the fourth-largest sugar manufacturing capacity in India and is a leading supplier of ethanol to oil marketing companies. SRSL has an operating track record of over two decades in the sugar business, and is geographically diversified, with a presence in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Besides, the company is the leading sugar refiner in the country. SRSL's Madhur is one of the leading sugar brands in the country, with a share of around one-third of the branded sugar market, according to the management. Branded sale volumes, which yield higher margins, have grown significantly over the past couple of years, with the sales volumes forming 30% of total sales in 9MFY25 (FY24: 38%).

EBITDA likely to Revive in 4QFY25, supported by Healthy Spreads in Refinery: SRSL's consolidated EBITDA grew to INR7 billion in FY24 (FY23: INR5.7 billion; FY22: INR3.8 billion), owing to a rise in profitability from the refinery division. While its operating EBITDA declined 20% yoy to INR3.6 billion in 9MFY25, owing to a fall in the distillery and the milling businesses with an increase in cane costs and lower ethanol sales, the company is likely to see a pick-up in it in 4QFY25 given higher sales of both sugar and ethanol, supporting the EBITDA for FY25. The company sold around 45 million litres (mnL) of syrup-based ethanol in 9MFY25 (9MFY24: 28mnL) while B-heavy based ethanol sales reduced to 10mnL (58mnL). SRSL had an order book of 46mnL of ethanol (all syrup-based) to be sold in 2Q-3Q of ESY25, which is likely to boost volumes for the next two quarters. While the fair and remunerative price of sugarcane was increased around 8% yoy to INR340/quintal for SS25, the average domestic sugar prices were up only 2% yoy up during 9MFY25, given the high opening inventory. However, a lower sugar production and the allowance of exports are likely to reduce the country's inventory, Ind-Ra expects the prices to improve in the near term (February 2025: INR40/kg; February 2024: INR37.5/kg), supporting SRSL's profitability.

The refining margins increased to 8.8% in 9MFY25 (9MFY24: 6.6%) despite a softening in the international refining spreads due to hedging measures adopted by the management to lock in the prices. After a decline to around USD100/mt in January 2025, its refining spreads recovered to around USD120/mt in mid-March 2025 and would be a key driver for SRSL's EBITDA for FY26.

The group's revenue remained flat at INR82 billion in 9MFY25 (9MFY24: INR80 billion; FY24: INR113.3 billion) despite a 20% yoy fall in ethanol sales to 94mnL (9MFY24: 118mnL) given the lower crushing and restrictions on sugar diversion, as there was a substantial increase in sugar sales to 0.42mnt (9MFY24: 0.28mnt).

Deterioration in Credit Metrics after ECB refinancing; Improvement Contingent on EBITDA Growth: Of SRSL's total outstanding debt of INR57.7 billion as of March 2024 (FYE23: INR43.1 billion; FYE22: INR41.3 billion), 65% (57%; 54%) was in the form of ECB of USD300 million, extended by Wilmar largely to prepay the former's restructured debt. However, with refinancing of the ECB, the external debt shot up to INR42.9 billion at end-December 2024 (FYE24: INR20.3 billion). Thus, after reducing to 2.8x in FY24 (FY23: 3.1x; FY22: 5.0x), the consolidated external net leverage (net debt excluding debt from parent/ operating EBITDA) shot up to 6.9x at end-December 2024 and is likely to remain elevated in FY25. Similarly, the interest coverage on external debt (EBITDA/interest on external debt) weakened to 1.6x in 9MFY25

(9MFY24: 3.2x; FY24: 3.6x; FY23: 3.4x). Ind-Ra opines that SRSL's ability to improve its EBITDA levels over FY25-FY26 while gradually reducing external debt would be critical to improve the credit metrics. The management expects an increase in SRSL's EBITDA to lead to a significant improvement in its credit metrics in FY26.

Ind-Ra continues to adjust the credit metrics for the parent debt/advances, given the flexibility on servicing the same. The overall interest coverage stood at 0.6x in 9MFY25 (FY24: 0.8x; FY23: 1.1x), while the total net adjusted leverage came in at 8.9x (8.2x; 7.4x) and is likely to remain elevated in the near term as the balance sheet remains debt-heavy, owing to legacy pre-restructuring losses.

Susceptibility to Currency Fluctuations; High Working Capital Intensity: While SRSL has a natural hedge for its refining business, there is a significant timing mismatch, as the raw sugar procurement largely takes place through Wilmar at extended credit periods while receivables do not exceed one-to-one-and-a-half months. SRSL registered a forex loss of INR0.5 billion in 9MFY25 (FY24: loss of INR0.3 billion; FY23: loss of INR0.7 billion; FY22: loss of INR0.3 billion). The forex policy is aligned to that of the parent. All of the raw sugar stock is hedged and is imported from Wilmar only.

Sugar, being an agro-based industry, is prone to vagaries of monsoons. Also, as sugar is an essential commodity, it faces a high level of government intervention. Furthermore, the sugar business is inherently a working capital-intensive business, given the seasonality in the industry and has higher levels of inventory holding, which peaks in March-April.

The sugar industry is highly regulated, with sugar defined as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Accordingly, the government intervenes using various measures such as monthly sales quota, export restrictions to prevent imbalance in sugar demand-supply and keep the prices in check. The government determines and fixes the remuneration (fair and remunerative prices) payable on sugarcane to the farmers before the start of the sugar season.

Liquidity:

Adequate: The liquidity for the unsupported rating is the same as that for the bank loan facility ratings.

Rating Sensitivities

The sensitivities for the unsupported rating are the same as those for the bank loan facility ratings.

Covenants on NCDs:

Following are the covenants for NCDs INE087H08019:

For Wilmar International Limited:

1. Shareholder's fund will not at any time be less than USD8 billion
2. The ratio of consolidated net borrowings to the total capitalisation shall at all times be less than 0.75x

Calculations shall be done and interpreted on a consolidated basis.

Following are the financial covenants for other NCDs (INE087H07094, INE087H07128, INE087H07110, INE087H07102):

For SRSL:

1. Minimum fixed asset cover ratio of 1.25 times during the entire terms of NCDs.

2) Adequacy of CE structure

Wilmar has provided a corporate guarantee for SRSL's NCDs. Since the guarantee does not meet Ind-Ra's requirement of the presence of a pre-default clause for guarantee invocation and a well-defined payment mechanism, it has not been factored as an explicit CE and hence the CE suffix has not been added to the rating of the NCDs.

Any Other Information

Standalone Profile: During 9MFY25, the company posted revenue of INR77.6 billion (FY24: INR108.3 billion), EBITDA of INR3.5 billion (INR6.4 billion) and external interest coverage of 1.6x (3.3x).

ESG Issues

ESG Factors Minimally Relevant to Rating: Unless otherwise disclosed in this section, the ESG issues are credit neutral or have only a minimal credit impact on SRSL, due to either their nature or the way in which they are being managed by the entity. For more information on Ind-Ra's ESG Relevance Disclosures, please [click here](#). For answers to frequently asked questions regarding ESG Relevance Disclosures and their impact on ratings, please [click here](#).

About the Company

SRSL is one of the leading sugar manufacturers in India with a track record of over 25 years. Its operations are integrated, encompassing crushing of cane, refining of raw sugar, ethanol production and power generation.

Key Financial Indicators

Particulars (INR billion)- Consolidated	9MFY25	FY24	FY23*
Revenue	82.2	113.3	85.8
EBITDA	3.6	7.0	5.7
EBITDA margins (%)	4.4	6.2	6.6
Interest coverage on external debt (x)	1.6	3.6	3.4
Net leverage on external debt (x)	n.a	2.8	3.1
Source: SRSL, Ind-Ra			
*Standalone			

Status of Non-Cooperation with previous rating agency

Not applicable

Rating History

Instrument Type	Rating Type	Rated Limits (million)	Current Ratings/Outlook	Historical Rating/Outlook				
				28 March 2024	22 September 2023	17 August 2023	18 August 2022	19 August 2021
Issuer rating	Long-term	-	-	-	WD	IND A/ Stable	IND A-/ Positive	IND A-/ Positive
Fund-based/non-fund-based working capital limit	Long-term/short term	INR16,200	IND A/ Negative/ IND A1	IND A/ Stable/ IND A1	-	IND A/ Stable/ IND A1	IND A-/ Positive/ IND A1	IND A-/ Positive/ IND A1
Non-convertible debenture	Long-term	INR4,665	IND A/ Negative	IND A/ Stable	-	IND A/ Stable	IND A-/ Positive	IND A-/ Positive
Short term loans	Short-term	INR4,000	IND A1	IND A1	-	IND A1	IND A1	IND A1
Term loan	Long-term	INR3,338	IND A/ Negative	IND A/ Stable	-	IND A/ Stable	IND A-/ Positive	IND A-/ Positive
Unsupported rating	-	-	IND A/ Negative	IND A/ Stable	-	-	-	-

Bank wise Facilities Details

Complexity Level of the Instruments

Instrument Type	Complexity Indicator
Fund-based/non-fund-based working capital limit	Low
Non-convertible debenture	Low
Short term loans	Low
Term loan	Low

For details on the complexity level of the instruments, please visit <https://www.indiaratings.co.in/complexity- indicators>.

Annexure

Instrument	ISIN	Date of Issuance	Coupon Rate (%)	Maturity Date	Size of Issue (million)	Rating assigned along with Outlook/ Watch
NCDs	INE087H07094	3 April 2012	11.70	31 March 2028	INR339	IND A/Negative
NCDs	INE087H07128	24 December 2012	11.30	31 March 2028	INR226	IND A/Negative
NCDs	INE087H07110	24 December 2012	11.00	31 March 2032	INR500	IND A/Negative
NCDs	INE087H07102	3 April 2012	11.00	31 March 2032	INR750	IND A/Negative
NCDs	INE087H08019	4 January 2024	9.45	4 January 2029	INR2,850	IND A/Negative

Source: SRSL, NSDL

Outstanding as on 31 December 2024

Contact

Primary Analyst

Mahima Jain

Analyst

India Ratings and Research Pvt Ltd

DLF Epitome, Level 16, Building No. 5, Tower B DLF Cyber City, Gurugram Haryana - 122002

1246687268

For queries, please contact: infogrp@indiaratings.co.in

Secondary Analyst

Siddharth Rego

Associate Director

+91 22 40356115

Media Relation

Ameya Bodkhe

Marketing Manager

+91 22 40356121

About India Ratings and Research: India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) is committed to providing India's credit markets accurate, timely and prospective credit opinions. Built on a foundation of independent thinking, rigorous analytics, and an open and balanced approach towards credit research, Ind-Ra has grown rapidly during the past decade, gaining significant market presence in India's fixed income market.

Ind-Ra currently maintains coverage of corporate issuers, financial institutions (including banks and insurance companies), finance and leasing companies, managed funds, urban local bodies and project finance companies.

Headquartered in Mumbai, Ind-Ra has seven branch offices located in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Pune. Ind-Ra is recognised by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Reserve Bank of India and National Housing Bank.

India Ratings is a 100% owned subsidiary of the Fitch Group.

For more information, visit www.indiaratings.co.in.

Solicitation Disclosures

Additional information is available at www.indiaratings.co.in. The ratings above were solicited by, or on behalf of, the issuer, and therefore, India Ratings has been compensated for the provision of the ratings.

Ratings are not a recommendation or suggestion, directly or indirectly, to you or any other person, to buy, sell, make or hold any investment, loan or security or to undertake any investment strategy with respect to any investment, loan or security or any issuer.

APPLICABLE CRITERIA AND POLICIES

Parent and Subsidiary Rating Linkage

Evaluating Corporate Governance

Short-Term Ratings Criteria for Non-Financial Corporates

Corporate Rating Methodology

Policy for Credit Enhanced (CE) Ratings

The Rating Process

DISCLAIMER

All credit ratings assigned by india ratings are subject to certain limitations and disclaimers. Please read these limitations and disclaimers by following this link: <https://www.indiaratings.co.in/rating-definitions>. In addition, rating definitions and the terms of use of such ratings are available on the agency's public website www.indiaratings.co.in. Published ratings, criteria, and methodologies are available from this site at all times. India ratings' code of conduct, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, affiliate firewall, compliance, and other relevant policies and procedures are also available from the code of conduct section of this site.