

August 04, 2026

Mawana Sugars Limited: Ratings reaffirmed

Summary of rating action

Instrument*	Previous rated amount (Rs. crore)	Current rated amount (Rs. crore)	Rating action	Financial sector regulator [#]
Long term/Short term –Fund based –Working capital facilities	500.00	500.00	[ICRA]BBB+ (Stable)/ [ICRA]A2; reaffirmed	RBI
Total	500.00	500.00		

*Instrument details are provided in Annexure I

[#]SEBI's grievance redressal/dispute resolution and SEBI investor protection mechanisms such as SCORES and ODR shall not be available for activities and instruments, which fall under the regulatory purview of financial sector regulators other than SEBI.

Rationale

The rating reaffirmation of Mawana Sugars Limited (MSL) factors in its satisfactory performance in FY2026, supported by healthy sugar realisations and steady earnings from the distillery segment, which aided the profitability and cash accruals. The ratings also derive comfort from MSL's forward-integrated operations across the sugar, distillery and co-generation segments, which provide revenue diversification and offer a partial cushion against the cyclicity inherent in the sugar business. Further, the company's financial profile remains comfortable, reflected in its modest capital structure and debt coverage metrics. ICRA expects MSL to maintain stable margins over the medium term, supported by favourable sugar realisations and comfortable distillery operations.

The ratings, however, remain constrained by MSL's high working capital intensity of operations with NWC/OI at 46% in FY2026 due to the elevated inventory holding. The inventory levels are expected to remain high due to the nature of the sugar business, resulting in high short-term borrowing for the company, particularly during the year-end period. Nevertheless, the debt coverage indicators are expected to remain comfortable, driven by stable operating profits and a modest debt level.

The ratings factor in the vulnerability of MSL's profitability to the cyclical nature of the sugar industry and the agro-climatic risks related to cane production. Further, the profitability of sugar mills, including MSL, is exposed to the policies of the state government and the Central Government on cane prices, international trade, domestic quota, sugar and ethanol pricing and interest subvention loan for distillery capacity expansion.

The Stable outlook on the rating reflects ICRA's opinion that MSL will continue to maintain a satisfactory operational and financial performance, supported by healthy sugar realisations, stable distillery operations, its forward-integrated business model and a comfortable liquidity position.

Key rating drivers and their description

Credit strengths

Long track record of operations; forward integration cushions sugar cyclicity to some extent - The company has a long track record in the sugar industry. It currently operates two sugar units in Uttar Pradesh (UP) with a combined capacity of 18,500 tonnes crushed per day (TCD). The plant's operations are forward integrated, with a co-generation capacity of 59.7 megawatt (MW) and a sugar-based distillery capacity of 120 KLPD. The integrated operations provide alternative revenue streams and act as a cushion against the cyclicity associated with the sugar business to some extent.

Favourable policy framework supports profits and cash accruals - The Government of India (GoI) has been supporting the sugar industry through various measures, such as continuation of MSP, soft loans for clearing cane dues, interest subvention loans for ethanol capacity creation and expansion and timely price revisions for ethanol, which have supported the company's financial profile. Favourable pricing, coupled with a relatively shorter credit period for ethanol supplies, has supported the profits and cash accruals of various medium-to-large sized sugar mills.

Comfortable capital structure and modest debt coverage indicators - The company's capital structure remains comfortable with debt to equity of 0.8 times as on March 31, 2026 (PY: 0.9 times). The stable profitability supported the coverage indicators for FY2026. The company had an interest cover of 4.8 times (PY: 4.3 times), total debt to OPBIDTA of 4.0 times (PY: 3.3 times) and DSCR of 3.9 times (PY: 5.3 times) as on March 31, 2026. Going forward, the debt coverage metrics will continue to be modest, backed by stable operating margins.

Credit challenges

High working capital intensity - The seasonality in sugarcane crushing results in an elevated inventory of finished goods at each fiscal-end, resulting in high working capital intensity of operations (NWC/OI of 46% as on March 31, 2026). Going forward, the inventory levels are expected to remain high, particularly during year-end, mainly due to the seasonal nature of the business.

Profitability vulnerable to policy interventions by the Government - MSL's profitability, along with that of the other sugar mills, continues to be vulnerable to the GoUP and the Central Government's policy on cane prices. Thus, the company's performance can be adversely impacted by a disproportionate increase in cane prices in any particular year. Further, the profitability remains vulnerable to the Government's policies on international trade, domestic quota, sugar MSP, remunerative ethanol prices and interest subvention loan for distillery capacity expansion. The continuation of Government support in the form of remunerative ethanol prices and interest subvention for the debt-funded distillery capex is likely to prevent the piling up of cane arrears. Further, the upward revision of the Uttar Pradesh State Advised Price (UP-SAP) by Rs. 30 per quintal for SY2026 exerted pressure on the profitability during FY2026. Going forward, firm domestic prices are likely to offset the risk to some extent.

Profitability of sugar mills vulnerable to industry cyclicity and agro-climatic risks - Being an agri-commodity, the sugarcane crop is dependent on climatic conditions and vulnerable to pests and diseases that may not only impact the yield per hectare but also the recovery rate. These factors can have a significant impact on the company's profitability. The risk is further accentuated by adverse weather events such as the El Niño threat, which can result in below-normal rainfall and lower cane availability in key sugar-producing regions. Further, high dependence on a single crop variety may affect the yield and recovery rates. However, MSL has been exploring other varieties to mitigate this risk to a certain extent.

In addition, the cyclicity in sugar production results in a volatility in sugar prices. However, the sharp downfall in sugar prices has been curtailed after the introduction of MSP by the Central Government in June 2018. The increased diversion of sugarcane towards ethanol production has contributed to moderating surplus sugar availability in the domestic market, leading to lower sugar price volatility and stronger cash flow generation from the segment over time.

Environmental and social risks

Environmental considerations - Sugar entities like MSL are directly exposed to climate risks, which affect sugarcane production and yield. Further, excessive or deficient rainfall affects cane availability. However, the company's sugar facilities are in UP, having high sugar recovery rates and a longer crushing season with adequate availability of cane, thereby mitigating the climatic risks to a certain extent. Nevertheless, the company remains exposed to raw material availability which can be impacted by red rot and unseasonal and heavy rainfall, as was seen in the recent past.

Social considerations - The worldwide societal shift to less sugar-intensive food products, considering the health issues related to high sugar consumption, could structurally reduce the demand for sugar products. However, such changes in consumer behaviour or any other driver of change are expected to be relatively slow-paced. Therefore, while MSL remains exposed to

the aforementioned social risk, it is not likely to materially affect its credit profile in the medium term, given the increasing sucrose diversion towards ethanol.

Liquidity position: Adequate

MSL's liquidity remains adequate, supported by healthy cash flow generation from operations, aided by favourable sugar realisations and a stable performance of the distillery operations. The company had cash and cash equivalents of around Rs. 30 crore as of July 2026. It also had an average cushion of Rs. 200 crore in its working capital limits against the drawing power in the last 12 months ended March 2026. Additionally, the absence of any major long-term debt repayment obligations provides further financial flexibility.

Rating sensitivities

Positive factors – An upgrade will be backed by a healthy improvement in earnings and debt coverage metrics along with maintaining an adequate liquidity position.

Negative factors – ICRA could revise the ratings downwards if there is any sharp decline in revenues and profitability that would weaken the debt coverage metrics. A specific metric for an unfavourable rating action could be an interest cover of below 3.0 times on a sustained basis. Any significant crystallisation of the contingent liabilities, which mainly include interest on late payment of cane dues, may also weigh on the ratings.

Analytical approach

Analytical approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	Corporate Credit Rating Methodology Sugars
Parent/Group support	Not applicable
Consolidation/Standalone	The ratings are based on the consolidated financials of Mawana Sugars Limited and its subsidiaries. The list of the entities is given in Annexure II

About the company

Mawana Sugars Limited (MSL) is a part of the Siddharth Shriram Group. The company has two operating sugar plants, viz., Mawana Sugar Works (MSW) and Nanglamal Sugar Complex (NSC), with cane crushing capacities of 12,500 TCD and 6,000 TCD, respectively. These plants are in Meerut, western Uttar Pradesh. Both the units have a combined co-generation capacity of 59.7 MW. The Nanglamal Sugar Complex also has a distillery with a capacity of 120 KLPD.

Key financial indicators (audited)

MSL (consolidated)	FY2025	FY2026
Operating income	1,451.04	1,571.59
PAT	109.45	37.09
OPBDIT/OI	8.73%	6.71%
PAT/OI	7.54%	2.36%
Total outside liabilities/Tangible net worth (times)	1.23	1.14
Total debt/OPBDIT (times)	3.31	3.99
Interest coverage (times)	4.28	4.76

Source: Company, ICRA Research; All ratios as per ICRA's calculations; Amount in Rs. crore

PAT: Profit after tax; OPBDIT: Operating profit before depreciation, interest, taxes and amortisation

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: None

Rating history for past three years

Current (FY2027)				Chronology of rating history for the past 3 years							
				FY2027		FY2026		FY2025		FY2024	
Instrument	Type	Amount rated (Rs. crore)	Aug 04, 2026	Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating
Fund based – Working capital facilities	Long term/Short term	500.00	[ICRA]BBB+ (Stable)/[ICRA]A2	Apr 06, 2026	[ICRA]BBB+ (Stable)/[ICRA]A2	Jul 15, 2025	[ICRA]BBB+ (Stable)/[ICRA]A2	Apr 23, 2024	[ICRA]BBB (Stable)/[ICRA]A3+	-	-

Complexity level of the rated instruments

Instrument	Complexity indicator
Long term/Short term –Fund based –Working capital facilities	Simple

The Complexity Indicator refers to the ease with which the returns associated with the rated instrument could be estimated. It does not indicate the risk related to the timely payments on the instrument, which is rather indicated by the instrument's credit rating. It also does not indicate the complexity associated with analysing an entity's financial, business, industry risks or complexity related to the structural, transactional or legal aspects. Details on the complexity levels of the instruments are available on ICRA's website: [Click here](#)

Annexure I: Instrument details

ISIN	Instrument name	Date of issuance	Coupon rate	Maturity	Amount rated (Rs. crore)	Current rating and outlook	Financial sector regulator [#]
NA	Fund based – Working capital facilities	NA	NA	NA	500.00	[ICRA]BBB+ (Stable)/ [ICRA]A2	RBI

Source: Company

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[Please click here to view details of lender-wise facilities rated by ICRA](#)

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis

Company name	Ownership	Consolidation approach
Mawana Foods Private Limited	100.00%	Full consolidation

Source: Annual Report

ANALYST CONTACTS

Girishkumar Kashiram Kadam
+91 22 6114 3406
girishkumar@icraindia.com

Ankit Jain
+91 124 4545 865
ankit.jain@icraindia.com

Rachit Mehta 2
+91 22 6169 3328
rachit.mehta2@icraindia.com

Menka Sabnani
+91 79 6923 3003
menka.sabnani@icraindia.com

RELATIONSHIP CONTACT

L. Shivakumar
+91 22 6114 3406
shivakumar@icraindia.com

MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTACT

Ms. Naznin Prodhani
Tel: +91 124 4545 860
communications@icraindia.com

HELPLINE FOR BUSINESS QUERIES

+91-9354738909 (open Monday to Friday, from 9:30 am to 6 pm)
info@icraindia.com

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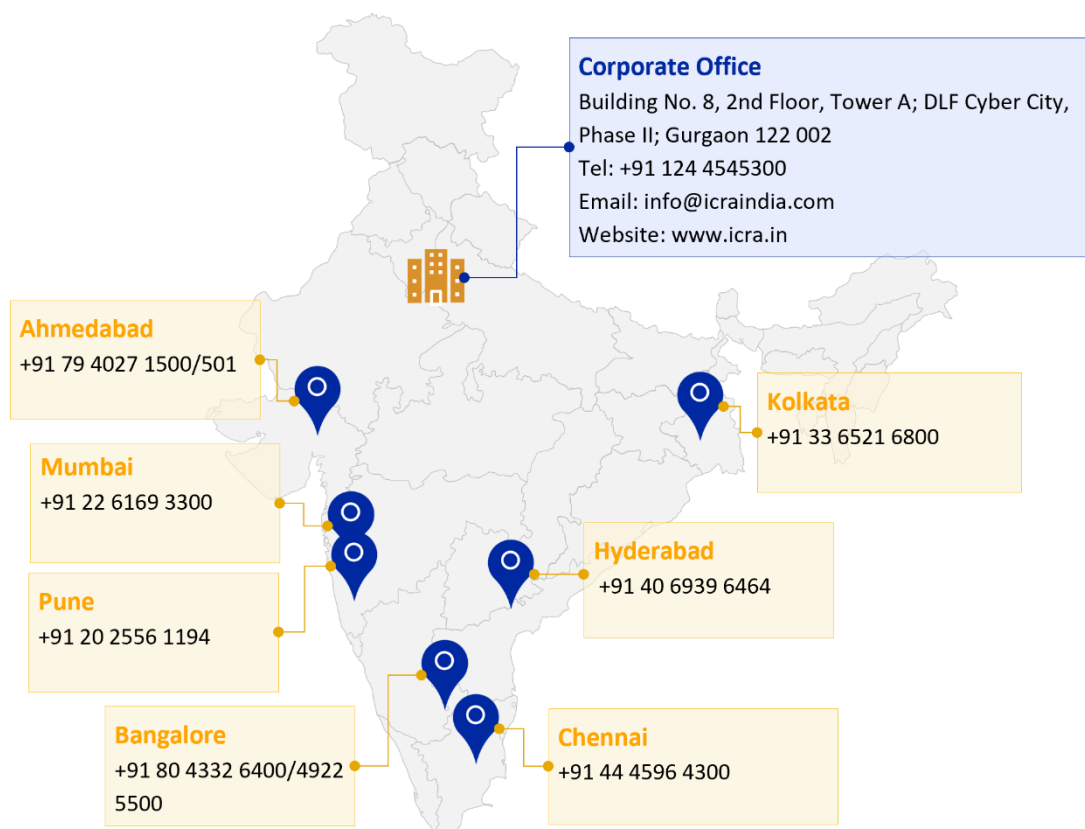
Registered Office

B-710, Statesman House, 148 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001

Tel: +91 11 23357940-45



Branches



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