

Noteco discount, debt a drag on UPL recast

Restructuring fails to simplify overall structure: Brokerages

RAM PRASAD SAHU
Mumbai, 23 February

The stock of the country's largest agrochemical company UPL was down 1.25 per cent on Monday after it announced a restructuring exercise aimed at simplifying group structure and housing key businesses under separate listed entities.

Investors were, however, not enthused by the move, given valuation concerns, debt overhang and holding company discount. The purpose of the restructuring is to keep both the domestic (UPL SAS) and global (UPL Corp) businesses under one crop protection entity while separating the seeds (Advanta) and post-harvest (Decco) units into another entity.

Apart from this, there is the specialty chemicals business (Superform) which will be kept as a separate unit. While the crop protection and seeds/post harvest entities (after Advant IPO) will be listed separately, the company is yet to take a call on the listing of the specialty chemicals business. Post restructuring, the existing listed entity will become a holding company for the group and house formulations, research and development (R&D) and Superform.

Some brokerages believe that the restructuring fails to simplify overall structure and unlock value. While the businesses are separate, overall shareholding structure remains complicated, says Elara Securities. Prashant Blyani and Yashi Jain of the brokerage believe that the move is unlikely to generate incremental value for shareholders and instead creates concerns on the holding company discount.

In the short term, it is a negative, as shifts from financial discipline to restructuring flows, they added. Kotak Research, too, believes that the reorganisation will not serve the purpose of value-unlocking with the chief drawback being the likely emergence of potentially large hold-



Volatile move



Sources: Bloomberg, BSE

ing company discounts at UPL. The share-swap ratio implies a lower valuation for UPL SAS of about ₹8,800 crore — less than half the entry price of private equity (PE) investors in 2022.

Further, the restructuring keeps the debt levels unchanged and this has been a key overhang on the stock. While the restructuring, according to Nuvara Research, aims to gain administrative and business synergies, thereby unlocking value, it keeps total debt similar even though redistributed between two entities. Net debt in UPL Global (the crop protection entity) should be ₹19,000 crore while that in the standalone business should be ₹3,200 crore. Leveraging, according to Archit Joshi and Rohan Otri

of the brokerage, would remain contingent to cash flow generation and working capital management, which in their view is event neutral. UPL plans to bring down net debt-to-operating-profit metric to 1.2-1.5 times in the medium term compared to levels of 1.6 times in FY24 and 2.1 times in FY25. The company is slated to end FY26 with leverage of 1.6 to 1.8 times.

Other brokerages, however, believe that the transaction is a win-win for minority and PE holders and will help simplify structure. It would enhance strategic focus and unlock shareholder value by enabling clearer investment choices. It will offer an opportunity for existing PE investors to exit their positions.

Antique Stock Broking believes that the Advanta listing will be a key near-term trigger for the stock. Manish Mahawar and Ritu Dahi of the brokerage expect profitable growth, sustained cash flow, and balance sheet deleveraging to be the re-rating catalysts for the stock in the medium term. The restructuring will also help on the debt front, believes Motilal Oswal Research. The restructuring strengthens the group's deleveraging roadmap, as independent platforms allow capital raises at the subsidiary level, such as the Advanta IPO, points out the brokerage.

YOUR MONEY

ELECTRIC VEHICLE INSURANCE

Avoid non-OEM battery to prevent triggering exclusion at claim time

HIMALI PATEL

Electric vehicles (EVs) accounted for 3.95 per cent of passenger vehicle sales in 2025, according to data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations. Adding momentum to the shift, India's largest carmaker, Maruti Suzuki, entered the EV market with the launch of the e-ATARA on February 17, 2026.

Must-haves for EV owners

Essential covers remain the same for EVs and internal combustion engine vehicles. Third-party liability and personal accident cover for the owner-driver are mandatory under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Buyers should also opt for own-damage cover.

"A comprehensive policy is necessary to provide protection for damages incurred by accidents, theft, fire, natural disasters, and liability to other people, as required by law," says Dinesh Mosamkar, senior vice president, consumer underwriting, Tata AIG General Insurance.

Personal accident cover protects the owner-driver against death or disability up to ₹15 lakh. Buyers can also opt for cover for co-passengers and add-ons such as depreciation shield, consumables expenses cover, roadside assistance, and more.

EV-specific add-ons

An EV's battery and related systems should be well protected. "Cover for the traction battery, battery management system, and EV drive system is crucial," says Rakesh Kaul, chief distribution officer, retail business, Bajaj General Insurance. Owners must also guard against battery depreciation. "Battery can form 50 per cent of an EV's value. This add-on prevents costs during claims due to depreciation," says Mosamkar. He also suggests buying Electric Surge Secure to guard against charging-related risks such as short circuits, arcing, electricity leakage, and water ingress. "Battery charger should be covered against the risk of theft and damage," says Arti Malik, chief technical officer, Universal

Sompo General Insurance.

Battery cover: Inclusions and exclusions

Battery cover indemnifies repair or replacement costs for damage arising from water ingress and damage to the battery, battery management system, and electric drive system. "A battery-cover claim can be triggered by unexpected power surges during charging, electrochemical reactions that cause expansion, flames, or smoke, and short circuits during mounting, dismounting, or charging," says Kaul.

Smeer Samdani, director, Insurance Brokers Association of India (IBA) adds that it can also be triggered by mechanical shocks due to external impact or power surge. Several things are typically excluded. "This add-on does not cover damage due to normal wear and tear. It also excludes damage due to tampering or usage of non-OEM chargers," says Malik.

Other exclusions include dead

battery, capacity loss, manufacturing defects covered under warranty, improper handling, unsafe charging, and undisclosed modifications. Negligence, such as not maintaining the vehicle or leaving it uncharged for long periods, is also excluded.

Charging-related cover

Standard motor insurance may not automatically cover EV charging equipment such as home chargers and cables. "Buyers should purchase a specific add-on to cover the battery charger against theft and damage," says Malik.

EV owners should be aware of exclusions. "Claims can be denied if the battery or charger is not authorised by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM), or if charging is not done according to OEM guidelines," says Tejinder Pal Singh, vice president, motor insurance, Prudential Insurance Brokers.

Even installation should be done according to the manufacturer's guidelines. "Buyers should retain installation documentation to reduce disputes at claim time," says Saurabh Vijayvergia, founder and CEO, CoverSure.

Do's and don'ts

- Consider multi-year policies to lock in premiums
- Check EV-specific gaps to avoid out-of-pocket costs even with zero-depreciation cover
- Ensure insurer has an extensive EV-ready repair network with capability for specialised electronics, software recalibration, and ADAS, and adequate parts availability
- Verify charging-related coverage gaps
- Ensure towing-to-charging-station support

Limits and conditions

For EVs, the admissible battery claim depends on the vehicle's age. "Battery and charger protect may only be available for vehicles up to six years old," says Samdani. EV-specific add-ons can have limits based on the IDV or component value. "Battery cover may be capped at the depreciated value unless paired with a zero-depreciation add-on," says Mosamkar.

The writer is a Mumbai-based independent journalist

Missed a home loan EMI? Credit and cost impact you should know

A delayed home loan EMI (equated monthly instalment) often triggers more anxiety than actual damage, but experts caution that inaction can prove costly.

When does it hit your credit score?

Most lenders report repayment behaviour in 30-day cycles. "Once an EMI crosses the 30-day mark, it is typically marked as 30 days past

due" (DPD), which becomes visible on the borrower's credit report," says Sarika Shetty, cofounder and chief executive officer, KentePE.

Manoj Puravankara, cofounder and group chief operating officer, Atom Privé Financial Services, says the potential impact could be bigger. Even one 30-day missed EMI can reduce a strong score by 50 to 150 points, he says.

What will it cost in rupees?

Banks typically levy penal interest cover and above the contracted rate. According to Shetty, late payment charges are often 1-2 per cent, with penal interest of 2-4 per cent per month on the overdue amount.

When does it become serious?

Under the Reserve Bank of India prudential norms, a home loan

is classified as a non-performing asset (NPA) if instalments remain overdue for more than 90 days.

What should borrowers do?

Shetty advises borrowers to contact the lender, discuss restructuring or partial payments, document all communication, and prioritise clearing the dues.

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SBI'S GREEN MARATHON CHAMPIONS INDIA'S CLIMATE ACTION AND NET ZERO VISION

State Bank of India, nation's largest bank, hosted in Mumbai its sixth edition of the SBI Green Marathon, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible banking. The 2025 - 16th century year. As part of this transition, SBI aims to increase Green Advances to 7.5%-10% by 2030, with 25% of these advances to be funded through Green Lines of Credit. Commenting on the event, Shri Rama Mohan Rao Amara, Managing Director, SBI said, "At SBI, sustainability is integral to our purpose and the Green Marathon is a symbol of our belief that meaningful climate action begins with individual responsibility and scales through collective commitment. As we progress towards carbon neutrality by 2030 and Net Zero by 2055, we remain committed to financing India's green transition and enabling collective climate action."

Launched in 2018, the SBI Green Marathon has grown into a nationwide movement aligned with India's Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) vision, encouraging citizens to adopt mindful and environmentally conscious lifestyles. The sixth season of the marathon commenced from Lucknow covering 17 cities including Mumbai.

The initiative complements SBI's broader sustainability roadmap aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047 mission. The Bank has committed to achieving carbon neutrality in its operations by 2030 and Net Zero by 2055 - 16th century year. As part of this transition, SBI aims to increase Green Advances to 7.5%-10% by 2030, with 25% of these advances to be funded through Green Lines of Credit. Commenting on the event, Shri Rama Mohan Rao Amara, Managing Director, SBI said, "At SBI, sustainability is integral to our purpose and the Green Marathon is a symbol of our belief that meaningful climate action begins with individual responsibility and scales through collective commitment. As we progress towards carbon neutrality by 2030 and Net Zero by 2055, we remain committed to financing India's green transition and enabling collective climate action."

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA ORGANIZES MEGA RETAIL CREDIT OUTREACH PROGRAM IN PUNE REGION

On 21 February 2026, a grand Mega Retail Credit Outreach Program was organized by Central Bank of India, Pune Region, at Hotel Central Park, Bund Garden Road, Pune. The program was chaired by Shri P. Maheshwari, General Manager (Retail), Corporate Office, Mumbai. On this occasion, Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Zonal Head, Pune, and Shri Rajesh Mishra, Regional Head, Pune, were prominently present. Shri Ajay Gujar, President, Builder Association of India, Pune; Advocate Nilesh Borate, President, RERA Practitioners Association, Pune; and Dr. Elizabeth James, Assistant Professor, NIBM, also graced the event with their presence.

The primary objective of the program was to strengthen retail credit delivery, enhance customers' access to housing loans, vehicle loans, personal loans, and other retail products, and highlight the Bank's commitment to meeting the diverse financial needs of individuals and families.

As part of this outreach initiative, direct interactions were held with customers to better understand their financial requirements and provide suitable retail solutions. During the program, eligible customers were handed over sanction letters for various retail loan products, including home loans, mortgage loans, vehicle loans, and personal loans.

OPAL ORGANISES INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SEMINAR AT DAHEJ, REINFORCING COMMITMENT TO A SAFER INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEM

ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPAL) organised an Industrial Safety Seminar at its Dahej complex on February 18, 2026, reaffirming the Company's strong resolve to foster an inclusive and robust safety ecosystem across industries in the region.

The seminar witnessed participation from over 100 industry delegates, including subject matter experts and national and international speakers representing a wide spectrum of organizations. The programme served as an important knowledge-sharing platform, focusing on contemporary industrial safety challenges and best practices.

A series of insightful sessions were conducted on critical safety themes, including process safety, HAZMAT management, work-at-height safety, and the increasingly important aspect of mental stress and well-being at the workplace. These sessions were highly appreciated by the delegates for their relevance and practical orientation. International safety expert Dr. Hinton from the USA was a key speaker at the seminar and delivered expert lectures on HAZMAT safety and Work at Height, bringing global perspectives and learnings to the forum.

The event was jointly chaired by the Chief Operating Officer, OPAL, Shri Anup Jharon and Shri D. B. Gami, Deputy Director, DISH Bharuch. Both dignitaries addressed the gathering, motivating participants with their inspiring and insightful views on prevailing safety challenges at both local and national levels. DISH Bharuch played a pivotal role in supporting and facilitating the successful conduct of the seminar.

BANK OF INDIA, GURUKUL BRANCH, AHMEDABAD, DISBURSES ₹25 LAKH ACCIDENTAL INSURANCE CLAIM

The Gurukul Branch of Bank of India, Ahmedabad, has disbursed an accidental insurance claim of ₹25 lakh to the family of its deceased customer. Late Shri Nikunjhai Seladia.

Shri Nikunjhai Seladia met with a fatal road accident while travelling from Ahmedabad to Prayagraj Kumbh for the holy dip. Following his unfortunate demise, his family approached the Gurukul Branch for account-related formalities. During the process, branch officials informed the family that the Late Shri Nikunjhai was a Diamond Account holder and was therefore eligible for an accidental insurance cover of ₹25 lakh. Notably, this accidental insurance benefit is provided without any separate premium. Customers holding Gold, Diamond, or Platinum accounts with Bank of India may be eligible for accidental insurance coverage of up to ₹2 crore, subject to applicable terms and conditions.

Shri Subhraj Kumar Behera, Zonal Manager of Bank of India, Ahmedabad Zone, was also present during the claim disbursement and emphasized that Bank of India offers several valuable benefits to its customers. He highlighted the need to create greater awareness among customers regarding such facilities.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

ASSET MANAGEMENT

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We have been informed that such unknown persons have created and are circulating fake documents purportedly issued by ABSLAMC, developed a fake application in the name of "ABSLHWN", issued fabricated statements of account, and prepared fake employee identity cards. They have been forging signatures of key managerial personnel of ABSLAMC. By using false representations and forged documents, they are duping individuals and extracting money through fraudulent means.

We hereby clarify that ABSLAMC is in no manner associated with the said individual or group of individuals, fake above mentioned application, fabricated documents, or any such fraudulent communications or platforms. ABSLAMC shall not be held responsible or liable for any actions, representations, assurances, commitments, or financial transactions undertaken by such impersonators, nor for any loss or damage suffered by any person who deals with them.

Members of the public are advised to exercise utmost caution and not to rely upon or engage with any unauthorised persons, applications, links, messages, or documents claiming any association with ABSLAMC. Investors and the general public at large are urged to interact/communicate with and invest in the schemes of ABSLAMC strictly through our below mentioned official channels.

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Any person who has been approached by such impersonators or has fallen victim to such fraud is advised to immediately report the matter to the nearest police station/cybercrime cell and to intimate ABSLAMC through its official fraud control channel ABSLAMCFraudControl@adityabirlacapital.com also ABSLAMC reserves the right to initiate appropriate civil and/or criminal proceedings against the said impersonators and any other persons found to be involved in or assisting with such fraudulent activities.

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