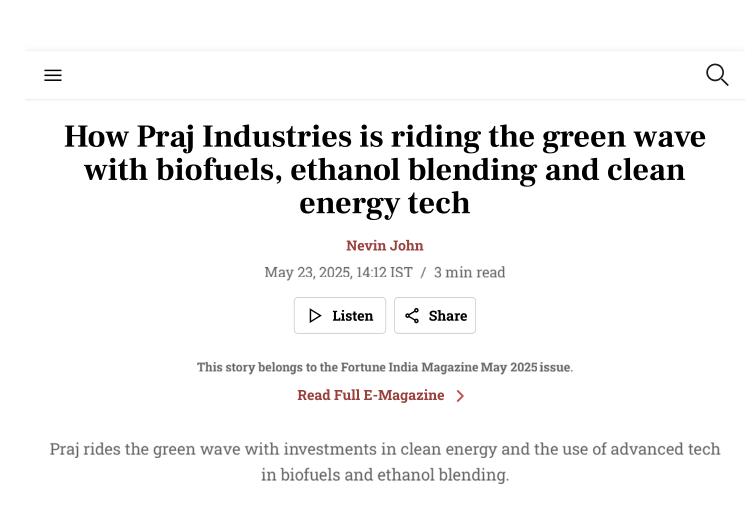
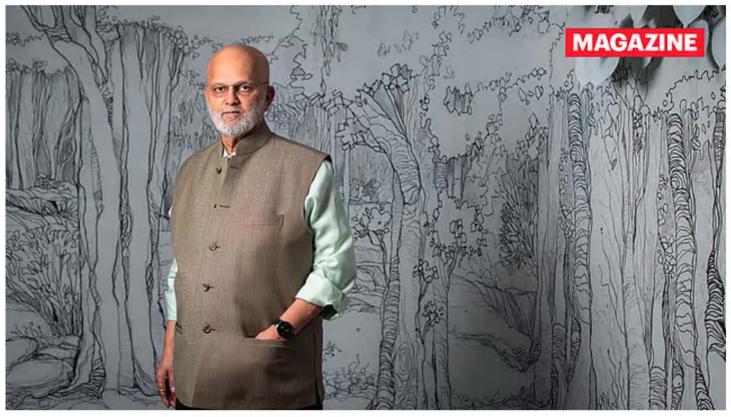
How Praj Industries is riding the green wave with biofuels, ethanol blen...



ADVERTISEMENT



Pramod Chaudhari, founder-chairman, Praj Industries; 100 Emerging Stars; Rank 5 / Credits: Sanjay Rawat

IN OCTOBER last year, a Pune-based biofuel technology firm launched the country's first demonstration facility for biopolymers that can produce compostable bioplastics. In December, Union minister of road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari unveiled the first national highway using bio-bitumen developed by Praj Industries. A month later, Praj launched a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) demonstration facility at its R&D centre in Pune.

With the roll-out of new projects, Praj aims to triple revenues to ₹10,000 crore and grow its profit over five times to ₹1,500 crore by 2030. It also intends to raise the share of its exports business to 50% from 30%. Pramod Chaudhari, who founded the firm in 1983, believes Praj's investments in SAF, biopolymers, and energy transition and climate action (ETCA) will drive the next phase of growth. The ETCA sector includes blue and green hydrogen, green ammonia and waste-to-energy solutions. "Globally, energy majors are likely to invest close to ₹25 lakh crore in clean energy by 2030, whereas the traditional oil and gas market will continue to attract investments to the tune of ₹21 lakh crore in the next 10 years," says Chaudhari.

ADVERTISEMENT

Riding on the back of advanced technologies in bioenergy and allied spaces, ethanol blending is the prime growth driver for the company. Blending increased from less than 10% in FY22 to more than 16% in FY24, equivalent to over 5.5 billion litres of production. This has saved India over ₹1 lakh crore in imports and reduced 55 million metric tonnes in CO2 emissions.

Praj, which has its second-generation (2G) integrated bio-refinery demonstration plant in Pune, provided tech to build Asia's first 2G ethanol bio-refinery by Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IOCL) at Panipat. It is the tech licensor and the engineering, procurement, construction, and management partner for the project, which is based on its proprietary tech processing rice straw as feedstock for the production of ethanol. The rise in investments in compressed biogas plants by co-operatives and the private sector is another booster shot for Praj. No wonder it claimed the 5th spot in *Fortune India*'s 100 Emerging Stars list.



Fortune India Latest Edition is Out Now!

The Alchemist

May 2025

Nitin Gadkari's ambitious plan to revolutionize India's highway...

Read Now

5 PRAJ INDUSTRIES	
Net Income (FY24)	Closing share price*
₹3,466 crore	₹554.55
3-year CAGR	3-year CAGR
38.50%	16%
Profit/loss (FY24)	TTM PE (x)
₹283 crore	40.95
3-year CAGR 51.77%	*Closing share price as on March 28, 2025 TTM: Trailing 12 months SOURCE: CAPITALINE

The company has developed strong engineering capabilities in modularisation and set up an advanced manufacturing facility in Mangaluru for nearly ₹400 crore. The plant is expected to deliver revenues to the tune of ₹2,000-2,500 crore annually. In FY24, Praj posted a 18.2% YoY rise in net profit to ₹283 crore.

Recommended Stories



How Garden Reach Shipbuilders is transforming itself to...



Ahluwalia Contracts builds

its way to the top with

strong order book and...



Tata Elxsi's AI-powered surge: How the tech star tripled revenue in a decade

The Sona BLW adv What fuels its resi a volatile auto wor

"Technology and policy should go hand in hand for successful commercialisation, which we expect in the case of 2G ethanol, bioplastics and SAF," says Chaudhari. Consistency of investments is crucial for momentum and sustained growth, he adds.

India's first commercial passenger flight using blended SAF was developed by Praj in mid-2023. The company, which partnered with U.S.-based Gevo Inc., used an alcohol-to-jet technology for producing SAF from bio-based feedstock. In 2023, Praj and IOCL formed a 50:50 joint venture to make biofuels in India. "We are developing two technology platforms to produce renewable transportation fuels, chemicals, and materials. That should help us triple revenues by 2030," says Chaudhari. The company has developed technology to produce polylactic acid — polyester made from renewable biomass and fermented plant starch such as corn, cassava, sugarcane or sugar beet pulp.

ADVERTISEMENT

Praj went public in 1994. Soon after, it began receiving international orders, beginning with Southeast Asia and later expanding to Colombia, where it secured over 70% of the ethanol market. Its global presence continued to grow, including the construction of the U.K.'s largest ethanol plant for Vivergo Biofuels and projects in Belgium. It is building three commercial 2G ethanol plants for IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL. The firm has more than 1,000 installations across 100 countries, and four manufacturing facilities. Its order book stands at ₹4,349 crore as on December 31, 2024.

Praj forayed into critical process equipment and systems and wastewater treatment solutions in 2012, and acquired Neela Systems, a specialist in hi-purity water solutions. Complex pharmaceutical machinery is another business the company is building.

RELATED TAGS

Praj Industries 100 Emerging Stars ETCA sector

Latest Magazine Issues

Read More >