

Expanding footprint

Japan Pulp and Paper Company Ltd has acquired a 49 per cent stake in KCT Trading Pvt Ltd, a wholesale paper trading company headquartered in Kolkata. JPP has made this investment as part of its efforts to further expand its global business activities. This share acquisition will enable the JPP group to strengthen its sales network in the growing Indian paper market.

The \$6 billion paper and related products company has a presence in over 28 countries. In terms of its overseas activities, JPP is expanding its global sourcing and sales network with business developments being made in a variety of areas, including the wholesale supply of paper and paperboard, the manufacture of corrugated containerboard, sale of raw materials used in the making of paper and the manufacture and sale of household paper products.

Better opportunities

KCT was previously a division of Karam Chand Thapar & Bros, comprising 35 companies and 65 manufacturing plants with diverse interests in paper, engineering, textiles, construction and chemicals, among others. The sale of a significant minority stake to an international paper trading company is expected to provide more cost effective and broad based sourcing opportunities to KCT as well as the impetus to continue its growth in the Indian market.

Langham Capital acted as the financial advisors to KCT on this transaction. This is the first Indo-Japanese transaction for the firm.