HINDALCO INDUSTRIES LTD



METAL (NON-FERROUS) | Retail Idea

Equity Research Desk

21 August 2024

NOT SO "COMMODITY"

Introduction

Hindalco Industries Ltd., a part of Aditya Birla Group is one of the world's largest producer of <u>value added aluminium products</u>. The company operates its business through 3 divisions i.e. *Novelis Inc.* (61% of revenues) – an international wholly owned subsidiary of the company engaged in the business of <u>recycled value added aluminium products</u>, *India Aluminium Business* (17% of Revenues) – a vertically integrated aluminium manufacturing business (<u>upstream & downstream</u>) and *India Copper Business* (22% of Revenues) – processing of copper & copper products.

Q1 FY25 Financial Performance

Hindalco reported a strong Q1FY25 result with revenues growing 8% YoY to reach 57013 crores while the EBITDA came in at 7992 crores, an increase of 31% over the previous year, and the PAT came in at 3074 cores, an increase of 25% over the previous year. The strong performance by the company was driven by a) strong performance by its international subsidiary Novelis, which reported a 19% rise in EBITDA to \$500 million driven by higher shipments (up 9% YoY to 951kt) on account of demand recovery in the beverage cans market, and a 10% rise in the EBITDA/Ton to \$525 driven by higher mix of recycled content in the input materials, b) strong performance by the India Upstream Business with the revenues rising 10% to Rs. 8839 crores and EBITDA rising 81% to Rs. 3493 crores driven by better realizations and lower costs (coal & carbon costs), c) better performance of copper business with revenues rising 16% to Rs. 13292 crores and the EBITDA rising 52% to Rs. 805 crores (management believes Rs. 600-650 crore is a sustainable EBITDA run rate going forward) on account of better realizations and a gain on account of derivative contracts. The strong performance was dragged down by India Downstream Business which reported a revenue growth of 18% to come in at Rs. 2668 crores while the EBITDA stood at 110 crores, down 19% on account of mix change towards low margin products (which the company would have typically done through outsourcing).

Rating	TP (Rs)	Up/Dn (%)
BUY	855	25
Market data		
Current price	Rs	686
Market Cap (Rs.Bn)	(Rs Bn)	1,541
Market Cap (US\$ Mn)	(US\$ Mn)	18,387
Face Value	Rs	1
52 Weeks High/Low	Rs	715.25 / 439.9
Average Daily Volume	(000)	10,433
BSE Code		500440
Bloomberg		HNDL.IN
Source: Bloomhera		

One Year Performance

170
150
130
110
90
Aug-23 Nov-23 Feb-24 May-24 Aug-24
Hindalco Industries Ltd Nifty Index

Source: Bloomberg

% Shareholding	Jun-24	Mar-24
Promoters	34.64	34.64
Public	64.92	64.92
Total	100.00	100.00

Source: Bloomberg

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Novelis: The Crown Jewel

Novelis Inc. which came into existence in 2004 through a spin - off from Alcan Inc. (the then world's second largest aluminum producer, now merged with Rio Tinto) was acquired by Hindalco in 2007 for a sum of \$6 Billion (Rs. 26400 Crores). This acquisition was further bolstered by Novelis acquiring Aleris Corporation in 2020 for a sum of \$2.8 Billion (Rs. 21295 crores) thus, cementing its position as one of the world's leading producers of value-added aluminum products. In FY24 Novelis contributed 61% to Hindalco's topline and 53% to consolidated business segment EBITDA with a very stable earnings profile owing to its long term PPI linked contracts with its customers. The product portfolio of the company includes beverage packaging products (54% of FY24 shipments), automotive products (21% of FY24 shipments), specialty products (19% of FY24 shipments) and aerospace (3% of FY24 shipments). Novelis in FY24 filed for an IPO in the US, but postponed the proposal eventually citing unfavorable valuation & market conditions.

The Bay Minette Project

Novelis in 2022 announced a fully integrated 600KT greenfield project for manufacturing of low carbon recycled rolled products in Bay Minette, USA for an estimated capex of \$2.5 Billion. The company plans to manufacture beverage packaging products and automotive products in the facility on a long-term contracted basis (majority of the capacity has been tied up on a long-term contract basis). The company recently announced that the project will be facing a cost overrun of close to \$1.6 billion (on account of increased civil & construction work) and the revised estimated capex for the project to \$4.1 Billion with the return's expectations moderated to low double digits as against mid-teens targeted earlier. The company remains firm on the project despite the cost overruns, as the company believes that the next phase of expansion from 600kt to 1200kt can be achieved at a cost of \$1500 to \$2500 per ton, and the fact that the company has been able to negotiate better prices for its products (including products from existing plants) which will help it drive its EBITDA/ton beyond \$600. The project is expected to come on board in H2 CY2026.

Other Growth Projects

Hindalco is currently investing to build a 170kt flat rolled product facility in the Aditya plant for which it plans to enter into long term offtake contracts with customers. Beyond this the company plans to undertake 3 projects, each with an estimated capex of 8000 crores, this includes a 2 MTPA alumina refinery in Odisha, 180 pot aluminum smelter at its Aditya facility & a 280 kt copper smelter at Dahej. In addition to this the company will also be incurring capex for its captive coal mines of Chakla, Meenakshi & Meenakshi West which are expected to bring cost efficiencies for the company.

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Valuation & Outlook

Based on our estimated FY26 EPS of Rs. 57 we value the company at 15x forward P/E given the underlying strength of the Novelis business and the growth projects announced by the company for its India business and assign a target price of 855 per share based on our March '25 projections. The target price implies an upside potential of 28% from the closing price as on 20/08/2024.

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