

Hindalco Industries Limited (Revised) October 05, 2023.

	-		
Facilities/Instruments	Amount (₹ crore)	Rating ¹	Rating Action
Long Term Bank Facilities	13,799.39 (Reduced from 14,087.00)	CARE AA+; Stable	Reaffirmed
Long Term / Short Term Bank Facilities	26,671.00 (Enhanced from 22,321.00)	CARE AA+; Stable / CARE A1+	Reaffirmed
Non-Convertible Debentures	700.00 (Reduced from 1,000.00)	CARE AA+; Stable	Reaffirmed
Non-Convertible Debentures	-	-	Withdrawn
Commercial Paper	-	-	Withdrawn

Details of instruments/facilities in Annexure-1.

Rationale and key rating drivers

The reaffirmation of the ratings assigned to the bank facilities and instruments of Hindalco Industries Limited (HIL) factors the well-established position of HIL in the Aluminium industry, as one of the low-cost Aluminium producers and one of the largest recyclers in the world. The ratings also factor in the cost-efficient manufacturing capabilities supported by 100 percent captive raw material supply for bauxite and alumina requirements and management's focus to further secure its raw material requirement especially thermal coal in the medium to long-term period. With the acquisition of Meenakshi and Chakla mines, CARE expects that in the next two years, operationalization of these mines will significantly reduce the company's dependence on external sources, partially insulating the company from volatility in energy prices. Further, CARE Ratings also understands that a considerable part of capex activity in domestic operations will be towards mine development and securing raw material supply in addition to investing in downstream operations.

For its domestic operations, HIL witnessed moderation in its profitability during FY23 (FY refers to the time period between April 01 to March 31), largely on account significant decline in LME (London Metal Exchange) aluminium prices and higher input cost. This decline though was partially offset by improvement in profitability from the copper segment. Going forward, CARE Ratings expects with the normalcy in commodity price curve along with strong demand outlook from the domestic market, would result in stabilization of revenue and profitability at the current levels.

Novelis Inc (a wholly owned subsidiary of HIL) is one of the world's largest aluminium can recycler along with presence in automotive & aerospace products. During FY23, revenue at Novelis Inc increased by ~ 8 percent to US\$ 18.01 billion dollars supported by better product mix, and higher aluminium prices and better pricing flexibility. However, a marginal dip of ~2% is observed in terms of shipments on account of customer inventory reduction and lower demand for specialty products amid muted global cues. Inflationary environment in USA and European countries, elevated energy costs had led to fall in the PBILDT per tonne from US\$ 530 in FY22 to US\$ 478 in FY23. Going forward, with the picking up of semi-conductor supply in automobile industry and ease of inflationary pressure in the export market, CARE expect that the volumes at Novelis should normalize in the next two quarters and continue to play a significant role in the growth of HIL. The management is currently in the process of setting up a new 600 kt rolling mill at Novelis (Completely fungible for can recycling, automobile & aerospace requirements) with a capital outlay of US\$ 2.1 billion.

Historically, the company has maintained cash and cash equivalents of more than Rs 18,000 crores demonstrating strong liquidity characteristics which is further supported by meagre working capital limit utilization. During the year, the company has prepaid some of its debt and has also refinanced near term debt with a lower interest rate resulting in net interest savings.

¹Complete definition of the ratings assigned are available at <u>www.careedge.in</u> and other CARE Ratings Ltd.'s publications



Going ahead, although the company has a planned capex of around US\$ 4.5 billon, CARE Ratings expects further improvement in its debt coverage metrics, largely on account of significant cash flow generation from operating activities, which will be utilized towards these capex expansions, along with accretion of profits to the company's net worth.

CARE Ratings expect, with the completion of capex, solvency ratios (overall gearing and net debt/PBILDT) are expected to witness moderation during FY24, however, with the generation of additional cash flows from operating activities, the solvency ratios are expected to improve post FY24 onwards.

The ratings are tempered by susceptibility of profitability to the volatility observed in the raw material prices as well as the risk associated with volatility in base LME price movement. Cyclical nature of demand from the end user industries, geopolitical factors and rate hikes by major central banks may have an impact on the envisaged performance of the company.

CARE Ratings is also in receipt of the request by the company to withdraw the ratings for the commercial paper and the certificate of redemption for non-Convertible debentures amounting to Rs 1500.00 crores and has accordingly withdrawn the same with immediate effect.

Rating sensitivities: Factors likely to lead to rating actions.

Positive Rating Sensitivities-

- ✓ Sustained improvement in the operating profit with PBILDT margin above 16% on a consistent basis.
- ✓ Net debt to PBILDT below unity.
- ✓ Ability of the company to complete the proposed capex and achieve COD while maintaining healthy debt metrics with debt equity ratio below 0.75x

Negative Rating Sensitivities

- × Major time /cost overrun to the proposed capex leading to overall gearing above 1.75x
- × Net Debt to PBILDT above 2.5x.
- Any change in the government regulation with regards to export duty leading to a decline in the scale of operations with TOI below Rs 1,20,000 crore.

Analytical approach: Consolidated

There are more than 70 subsidiaries, having significant operational and financial linkages. All the entities are either operating in a similar line of business or business related to the non-ferrous metals sector. There is significant reliance of these entities on parent and business inter-linkages are present between parent and subsidiaries. The list of entities is mentioned in **Annexure 6**. CARE has adopted a consolidated approach on account of strong operational and financial linkages along with dependencies.

Outlook: Stable

A stable outlook reflects that the rated entity is likely to maintain its strong market share which coupled with healthy demand enabling sustained operational and financial performance over the long term. Absence of debt funded capex, marginal repayment obligations and sufficient headroom in the working capital utilizations support the strong liquidity position of the entity in the long term. The outlook also refers to the dominant cash generation capacity of the entity within Aditya Birla group being the flagship company for its metal's portfolio.

Detailed description of the key rating drivers:

Key strengths

Reputed and resourceful promoter group; professionally qualified management HIL is the flagship metals company of the Aditya Birla Group. The company is led by professional and experienced management with Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla as the Chairman and Mr. Satish Pai as the Managing Director of HIL. The ratings continue to derive support from the resourceful promoter group and the professionally qualified and experienced management of the company that have built a successful track record in the industry.



Captive raw material production ensures Low-cost Aluminum with strong market position.

Over the past years, HIL has ramped up its capacities in a timely and cost-effective manner to become one of the largest producers of aluminum in India. With the acquisition of Novelis in 2007 and Aleris in 2020, HIL has become one of the world's largest aluminum rolling companies. HIL is one of the lowest cost producers of aluminum in the world owing to significant backward integration i.e., access to captive power using its own mined coal and producing alumina using bauxite from captive mines. Further, its subsidiary, Utkal Alumina is one of the lowest cost producers of alumina in the world.

The company is completely self-sufficient for its Bauxite requirement and for coal its source around ~70% of its requirements from captive mines and linkage with Coal India Limited. CARE expects that the latest acquisition of Chakola and Meenakshi Mines, the energy costs for the Indian operations will be softened which brings in stability in terms of profitability levels for the company.

Strong operational performance

For the Indian operations the deliveries of Aluminum segment of the company improved by $\sim 4\%$ and at the back of stable industry indicators. The copper segment witnessed healthy growth at 8% on a volume basis as the previous acquisitions of cooper facilities in FY22 had pushed the volumes which were absorbed by the industry.

For FY23 from the revenue contribution for aluminum business increased by 5% (From Rs. 44019 crores to Rs. 41853 crore) and copper increased by 13.5% (From Rs. 41702 crores to Rs. 36723 crore) on account of increased domestic operations and improved treatment and refining charges.

EBITDA during FY23 for aluminum upstream has recorded a downfall due to the higher input costs and unfavorable macros. However, the aluminum downstream and copper business has achieved an all-time high EBITDA. The downstream aluminum business has been driven by better pricing strategies and improvement in volumes.

The contribution of Novelis has also improved with an EBITDA of \$ 1.8 billion (down from \$ 2.05 billion in FY22) which accounts for around 60% of the consolidated EBITDA. Shipments fell by ~2% from 3858 Kt in FY22 to 3790 Kt in FY23 primarily on account of lower beverage can movement which was further driven by customer inventory reductions in the second half of the fiscal year as post pandemic the broader beverage supply chain attained stability. Also due to the weak macro-economic environment the demand for specialties products was low.

Healthy Capital Structure

Capital structure of the entity market by overall gearing improved to 1.05x as on March 31, 2023 (PY: 1.40x) amidst improved net worth base and repayment of debenture worth Rs 6000.00 crore during the period. However, coverage metrics like PBILDT interest coverage ratio, Net Debt/GCA fell marginally owing to lower profitability in FY23 as against FY22. During the year, the company has also refinanced a near-term maturity debt at lower cost which results in net interest cost savings. Going forward, CARE understands that there will be no incremental debt addition for capacity building which keeps the solvency metrics stable.

Increased focus on downstream activities

Over the past three years, the company has been increasing its focus toward downstream activities by building an eco system which is value added high margin business. Activities like supply of aluminum products for Vande Bharat, air conditioning manufacturing are being taken up by the company to have first mover advantage in the downstream segment. As the demand in this segment is mostly catered by large numbers of unorganized players, CARE expects that, with the technical expertise, financial prowess and brand recall of Hindalco is sufficiently equipped to be a dominant player in the downstream in the next 5 years.

Allocated capex to further consolidate its market position.

The company has allocated a consolidated capex worth \$3.1 billion which is largely toward setting up a new 600 Kt rolling mill facility in Alabama, Novelis. The facility will be state of the art, which helps the company to increase its footprint in the can recycling space and also increase its customer base in automobile and aerospace field. CARE understands that there will be no difficulty in terms of customer acquisition for the incremental capacity as the industry is currently running at deficit recycling capacity and the strong corporate relationship of the company will ensure contract closing for the company.



For Indian operations, the management is looking to develop Chakola and Meenakshi mine development which will safeguard future raw material requirement. The debottlenecking activity at Utkal Alumina is also currently on going which will come online in FY24. In addition, the company also has other small-scale capex activities in the downstream segment to attract new customers in that field.

Liquidity position: Strong

Hindalco has a consolidated cash and cash equivalents balance (along with bank balances) of Rs. 24,738 crores (PY: Rs 24,142 crore) and the surplus bank limits for its working capital requirements. Historically, over the last four years the company has been consistently maintaining liquidity position of more than Rs 18,000 crore. CARE expects liquidity levels of the company to be stable around the same levels, supported by strong operational strength and financial controls within the entity.

HIL enjoys strong financial flexibility in terms of raising low-cost debt from financial institutions and refinancing maturing debt as it is part of Aditya Birla Group.

Key weaknesses

Highly susceptible to volatility in metal prices and currency exchange rates

Aluminium/copper prices have experienced immense volatility in the past couple of years. Commodity prices are prone to fluctuation as these are impacted by geopolitical events and state of global economy. With Russia- Ukraine conflict, increased fed rated to curb raising inflation, and fuel costs touching multiyear these input prices significantly influence profitability margins of company, thereby remains the key monitorable. Also, revenues of domestic business of Hindalco are driven by LME prices of Aluminium and Copper which are denominated in USD. Hence, a strong move in currency exchange rate can impact the revenues and profitability of domestic business.

Global Outlook

The global demand for Flat rolled products (FRP) is expected to improve in CY23 primarily driven by increased recycled aluminum consumption, improvement in the automobile segment, favorable aerospace performance and specialty products. While the demand of sustainable packaging in the beverage industry has increased considerably driven by high at home consumption, can makers over the world have started to ramp up their capacities to meet the demand.

Assumptions/Covenants: NA

Environment, social, and governance (ESG) risks

A board-level committee chaired by the managing director has been formed by Hindalco, which aims at meeting periodically to keep track of performance and lookout for avenues requiring improvement. Hindalco has been in the top 1% of S&P Global ESG Score in the aluminium industry in 2022.

- By 2050, Hindalco aims to become carbon neutral.
- Hindalco aims at achieving water positivity across its mining sites by 2025 and across all its operations by 2050.
- Hindalco follows a 5R+1S approach (Reduce, Redesign, Recover, Rehabilitate, Recycle, and Store) to establish its target of becoming Zero Waste to Landfill by 2050. At Novelis, the company targets to reduce its waste to landfill intensity by 20% by 2026.

Furthermore, it is the of the 'KPMG India ESG Conclave and Awards 2023' in the industrial manufacturing and automotive sector. More than 85% of the waste generated is either recycled or reused. During FY23, Novelis has recycled over 82 Bn used beverage cans. The recycled material content in FY23 (2325 Kt) has improved by 5% in comparison to FY22 (2214 Kt).

Applicable criteria

Policy on default recognition <u>Consolidation</u> <u>Financial Ratios – Nonfinancial Sector</u> <u>Liquidity Analysis of Non-financial sector entities</u> <u>Rating Outlook and Credit Watch</u> <u>Short Term Instruments</u>



<u>Manufacturing Companies</u> <u>Non Ferrous Metal</u> <u>Policy on Withdrawal of Ratings</u>

About the company and industry

HIL, the flagship metals company of the Aditya Birla group, commenced operations in 1962. It has manufacturing facilities at multiple locations namely Hirakud (Odisha), Renukoot (Uttar Pradesh), Aditya (Odisha), Mahan (Madhya Pradesh), Muri (Jharkhand) and Dahej (Gujarat). Over the years it has grown to become one of the largest integrated aluminium manufacturers in Asia with alumina capacity of 3 mtpa (million tons per annum, this has now increased to 3.6 mtpa as the capacity of Utkal refinery is increased to 2.1 mtpa) and aluminium smelting capacity of 1.3 mtpa. Novelis Inc. (Novelis; subsidiary of HIL) has an aluminium value-added downstream capacity of 3.9 million tonnes. The company is also a custom smelter of copper with a capacity of 0.4 mtpa at Dahej, captive power plant and jetty.

Industry classification

Macro-Economic Indicator	Sector	Industry	Basic Industry
Commodities	Metals & Mining	Non - Ferrous Metals	Aluminium

Standalone

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Brief Financials (₹ crore)	March 31, 2022 (A)	March 31, 2023 (A)	Q1-24
Total operating income	67,798.00	76,995.00	20219
PBILDT	11,297.00	7,983.00	1774
PAT	5,507.00	3,326.00	600
Overall gearing (times)	0.41	0.32	-
Interest coverage (times)	8.02	6.14	5.04

A: Audited UA: Unaudited; Note: 'the above results are latest financial results available'

Consolidated

Brief Financials (₹ crore)	March 31, 2022 (A)	March 31, 2023 (A)	Q1-24
Total operating income	1,95,059	2,23,202	52,991
PBILDT	28,506	22,890	6,095
РАТ	14,201	10,098	2,454
Overall gearing (times)	1.40	1.05	-
Interest coverage (times)	7.57	6.28	6.14

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: NA

Any other information: NA

Rating history for last three years: Please refer Annexure-2

Covenants of rated instrument / facility: Detailed explanation of covenants of the rated instruments/facilities is given in Annexure-3

Complexity level of various instruments rated: Annexure-4

Lender details: Annexure-5

Annexure-1: Details of instruments/facilities

Name of the Instrument	ISIN	Date of Issuance (DD-MM- YYYY)	Coupon Rate (%)	Maturity Date (DD- MM-YYYY)	Size of the Issue (₹ crore)	Rating Assigned along with Rating Outlook
Commercial Paper-						
Commercial		-	-	7-365 days	0.00	Withdrawn
Paper						
(Standalone)						



Debentures- Non- Convertible Debentures	INE038A08124	28-10-2022	7.60%	March 18, 2023	700.00	CARE AA+; Stable
Fund-based - LT-Term Loan		-	-	Dec 31	11656.89	CARE AA+; Stable
Fund-based - LT-Working Capital Limits		-	-	-	2142.50	CARE AA+; Stable
HINDALCO 9.55% 2022 (S- I)	INE038A07258	24-Apr-2012	-	24-Apr-2022	0.00	Withdrawn
HINDALCO IND 9.60% 2022 S- III	INE038A07274	02-Aug-2012	-	01-Aug-2022	0.00	Withdrawn
HINDALCO IND. 9.55% 2022(S-II)	INE038A07266	26-Jun-2012	-	26-Jun-2022	0.00	Withdrawn
Non-fund- based - LT/ ST- BG/LC		-	-	-	26671.00	CARE AA+; Stable / CARE A1+

Annexure-2: Rating history for the last three years

		1	Current Ratings			Rating	J History	
Sr. No.	Name of the Instrument/Bank Facilities	Туре	Amount Outstanding (₹ crore)	Rating	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2023- 2024	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2022- 2023	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2021- 2022	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2020-2021
1	Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	LT	-	-	-	1)CARE AA+; Stable (06-Oct- 22) 2)CARE AA+; Stable (06-Jul- 22)	1)CARE AA+; Stable (07-Jul- 21)	1)CARE AA+; Negative (08-Oct-20) 2)CARE AA+; Negative (22-May-20)
2	Fund-based - LT- Term Loan	LT	11656.89	CARE AA+; Stable	-	1)CARE AA+; Stable (06-Oct- 22) 2)CARE AA+; Stable (06-Jul- 22)	1)CARE AA+; Stable (07-Jul- 21)	1)CARE AA+; Negative (08-Oct-20) 2)CARE AA+; Negative (22-May-20)



3	Fund-based - LT- Working Capital Limits	LT	2142.50	CARE AA+; Stable	_	1)CARE AA+; Stable (06-Oct- 22) 2)CARE AA+; Stable (06-Jul- 22)	1)CARE AA+; Stable (07-Jul- 21)	1)CARE AA+; Negative (08-Oct-20) 2)CARE AA+; Negative (22-May-20)
4	Non-fund-based - LT/ ST-BG/LC	LT/ST*	26671.00	CARE AA+; Stable / CARE A1+	_	1)CARE AA+; Stable / CARE A1+ (06-Oct- 22) 2)CARE AA+; Stable / CARE A1+ (06-Jul- 22)	1)CARE AA+; Stable / CARE A1+ (07-Jul- 21)	1)CARE AA+; Negative / CARE A1+ (08-Oct-20) 2)CARE AA+; Negative / CARE A1+ (22-May-20)
5	Commercial Paper- Commercial Paper (Standalone)	ST	-	-	-	1)CARE A1+ (06-Oct- 22) 2)CARE A1+ (06-Jul- 22)	1)CARE A1+ (07-Jul- 21)	1)CARE A1+ (04-Nov-20) 2)CARE A1+ (08-Oct-20) 3)CARE A1+ (22-May-20)
6	Term Loan-Short Term	ST	-	-	-	-	-	1)Withdrawn (08-Oct-20) 2)CARE A1+ (22-May-20)
7	Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	LT	700.00	CARE AA+; Stable	-	1)CARE AA+; Stable (06-Oct- 22)	-	-

*Long term/Short term.

Annexure-3: Detailed explanation of covenants of the rated instruments/facilities: NA

Annexure-4: Complexity level of the various instruments rated.

Sr. No.	Name of the Instrument	Complexity Level
1	Commercial Paper-Commercial Paper (Standalone)	Simple
2	Debentures-Non-Convertible Debentures	Simple
3	Fund-based - LT-Term Loan	Simple
4	Fund-based - LT-Working Capital Limits	Simple
5	Non-fund-based - LT/ ST-BG/LC	Simple



Annexure-5: Lender details

To view the lender wise details of bank facilities please click here

Note on the complexity levels of the rated instruments: CARE Ratings has classified instruments rated by it on the basis of complexity. Investors/market intermediaries/regulators or others are welcome to write to care@careedge.in for any clarifications.

Annexure-6: List of Entities consolidated.

Sr. No	Name	% of shareholding
Hindalco In	dustries Limited	
Subsidiarie	S	
1	Novelis Inc. (downstream entities of Novelis Inc.	100.00
	given below)6	100.00
2	Utkal Alumina International Limited	100.00
3	AV Minerals (Netherlands) N.V.	100.00
4	A V Metals Inc. (Merged on September 1, 2022)	100.00
5	Minerals & Minerals Limited	100.00
6	Suvas Holdings Limited	100.00
7	Dahej Harbour & Infrastructure Limited	100.00
8	Hindalco Almex Aerospace Limited	100.00
9	East Coast Bauxite Mining Company	100.00
10	Renuka Investments & Finance Limited	100.00
11	Renukeshwar Investments & Finance Limited	100.00
12	Lucknow Finance Company Limited	100.00
13	Utkal Alumina Social Welfare Foundation	100.00
14	Kosala Livelihood and Social Foundation	100.00
15	Birla Copper Asoj Private Limited	100.00
16	Hindalco Jan Seva Trust	100.00
17	Copper Jan Seva Trust	100.00
18	Utkal Alumina Jan Seva Trust	100.00
19	Hindalco Kabushiki Kaisha	100.00
Joint Opera	tions	
1	Tubed Coal Limited	60.00
2	Mahan Coal Limited	50.00
		50.00
Trusts		
1	Trident Trust	
2	Hindalco Employee Welfare Trust	
1-1-1.		
Joint Ventu 1	MNH Shakti Limited	15.00
2	Hydromine Global Minerals (GMBH) Limited	
2		45.00
Associate C	ompanies	
1	Aditya Birla Science & Technology Company	40.00
	Private Limited	49.00
2	Aditya Birla Renewables Subsidiary Limited	26.00
3	Aditya Birla Renewables Utkal Limited	26.00
4	Aditya Birla Renewables Solar Limited	26.00
	m entities of Novelis Inc.	
Subsidiarie		400.00
1	Novelis do Brasil Ltda	100.00
2	Brecha Energetica Ltda	100.00



4260848 Canada Inc. 4260856 Canada Inc. 8018227 Canada Inc.	100.00 100.00
8018227 Canada Inc.	
<u>.</u>	400.00
Navalia (China) Alumainum Duaduata Calital	100.00
Novelis (China) Aluminum Products Co. Ltd.	100.00
Novelis (Shanghai) Aluminum Trading Company Ltd	100.00
Novelis PAE S.A.S.	100.00
Novelis Aluminum Beteiligungs GmbH	100.00
Novelis Deutschland GmbH	100.00
Novelis Sheet Ingot GmbH	100.00
Novelis (India) Infotech Limited (dissolved on September 23, 2022)	100.00
	100.00
	100.00
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Novelis Korea Limited	100.00
Novelis AG	100.00
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Novelis Aluminum (Zhenjiang) Co., Ltd. (formerly	100.00
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	Novelis Sheet Ingot GmbHNovelis (India) Infotech Limited (dissolved on September 23, 2022)Novelis Aluminum Holding Unlimited CompanyNovelis Italia SpANovelis Italia SpANovelis de Mexico S.A. de C.V.Novelis Korea LimitedNovelis Switzerland S.A.Novelis Switzerland S.A.Novelis Europe Holdings LimitedNovelis Services LimitedNovelis Services LimitedNovelis Services LimitedNovelis South America Holdings LLCNovelis Services (North America) Inc.Novelis Global Employment Organization, Inc.Novelis Vietnam Company LimitedAleris Asia Pacific International (Barbados) Ltd.



Sr. No	Name	% of shareholding
Joint Opera	ations	
1	Aluminum Norf Gmbh	50.00
2	Ulsan Aluminum Limited	50.00
3	Logan Aluminum Inc.	40.00
4	AluInfra Services SA	50.00
Associate (Companies	
1	Deutsche Aluminum Verpachung Recycling GMBH	30.00
2	France Aluminum Recyclage SPA	20.00

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About us:

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