# ANANDRATHI

09 August 2020

## **Birla Corporation**

Lockdown hit performance; outlook intact; retaining a Buy

Its cement and jute divisions hit by the lockdown and cyclone Amphan, Birla Corp's revenue/EBITDA/PAT fell 35%/39%/53% y/y. Frequent local lockdowns and floods in Bihar are hurting demand. Besides the ongoing expansion, the Board approved the Durgapur expansion to address premium-slag demand in the East. We do not expect much rise in the Net D/E backed by expected profitability improvement despite leveraged B/S. We retain our Buy rating, and raise our target to ₹830 (earlier ₹650).

**Demand pick-up would help.** On the 33% y/y volume drop (severe disruptions in key markets and manufacturing centres) and the 1% y/y realisation drop (mainly weak prices in the East), revenue plunged 35% y/y. Though demand is expected to continue to be hampered on frequent local lockdown and floods in the East, demand would pick up in the Central region due to government-funded projects and welfare schemes (MGNREGA, PMKGY); greater labour availability would help. We expect volumes to dip 8.6% y/y in FY20 and grow 9.4% in FY21.

**Operating performance to get back on track.** EBITDA/ton declined 6.8% y/y to ₹982; EBITDA, 39% y/y (on low fixed-cost absorption and capacity utilisation). Further, the jute division suffered a PBIT loss of ₹43m (lockdowns, cyclone Amphan). We believe that ramped up production and the constant focus on brand, more blended cement sales, high solar power use will help to EBITDA/ton of ₹901/ ₹975 in FY21/22 (vs ₹965 in FY20).

**Business Outlook, Valuation.** While the Kundanganj expansion continues to be postponed, the BOD approved to expand Durgapur GU capacity by 0.24m ton by Q3FY23 whereas Yavatmal expansion to commence by Q2 FY22. This will keep leverage high, however, we expect, net D/E of 0.79x in FY22 (vs 0.77x a year ago) on improved profitability. We retain our Buy rating, raising our target to ₹830, valuing it at 8x FY22e EV/EBITDA and an EV/ton of \$62. **Risks:** High pet-coke and diesel prices, extended lockdowns.

Key financials (YE Mar)	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21e	FY22e
Sales (₹ m)	57,300	65,487	69,157	63,720	71,240
Net profit (₹ m)	1,664	2,557	5,052	3,034	3,879
EPS (₹)	21.6	33.2	65.6	39.4	50.4
PE (x)	33.0	15.8	6.3	16.6	13.0
EV / EBITDA (x)	11.6	8.3	5.3	8.1	7.0
EV / ton (\$)(Cement)	60.8	51.6	47.4	63.6	52.6
RoE (%)	4.4	5.8	10.9	6.2	7.4
RoCE (%)-after tax	5.1	5.1	7.2	5.0	5.6
Dividend yield (%)	0.9	1.4	1.8	1.0	1.0
Net debt / equity (x)	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8

India I Equities

### Cement Company Update

Change in Estimates ☑ Target ☑ Reco □

### Rating: **Buy** Target Price: ₹830 Share Price: ₹653

Key data	BCORP IN / BRLC.BO
52-week high / low	₹808 / 372
Sensex / Nifty	38041 / 11214
3-m average volume	\$3.6m
Market cap	₹50bn / \$671.1m
Shares outstanding	77m

Shareholding pattern (%)	Jun'20	Mar'20	Dec'19	
Promoters	62.9	62.9	62.9	
- of which, Pledged				
Free float	37.1	37.1	37.1	
- Foreign institutions	3.6	4.2	3.9	
- Domestic institutions	14.6	15.3	15.5	
- Public	18.9	17.6	17.8	
Estimates revision (%)		FY21e	FY22e	
Sales		(0.8)		
EBITDA		0.9		

24.0

13.5

PAT





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## **Quick Glance – Financials and Valuations**

Fig 1 – Income staten	nent (₹ m	ı)			
Year-end: Mar	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21e	FY22e
Sales volume	12.4	13.6	13.6	12.4	13.6
Net revenues (₹ m)	57,300	65,487	69,157	63,720	71,240
Growth (%)	31.8	14.3	5.6	-7.9	11.8
Direct costs	37,422	42,746	41,801	40,405	42,805
SG&A	11,797	13,255	13,997	11,968	14,928
EBITDA	8,081	9,486	13,360	11,347	13,507
EBITDA margins (%)	14.1	14.5	19.3	17.8	19.0
- Depreciation	3,322	3,391	3,519	3,661	4,510
Other income	740	785	851	765	855
Interest expenses	3,776	3,705	3,877	4,116	4,311
PBT	1,723	3,174	6,815	4,334	5,541
Effective tax rate (%)	3.7	19.4	25.9	30.0	30.0
+ Associates / (Minorities)					
Net income	1,540	2,557	5,052	3,034	3,879
Adjusted income	1,664	2,557	5,052	3,034	3,879
WANS	77	77	77	77	77
FDEPS (₹ / sh)	21.6	33.2	65.6	39.4	50.4
FDEPS growth (%)	-26.5	53.6	97.6	-39.9	27.8

Year-end: Mar	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21e	FY22e
PBT	1723	3174	6815	4334	5541
+ Non-cash items	3322	3391	3519	3661	4510
Oper. prof. before WC	5045	6566	10334	7995	10051
- Incr. / (decr.) in WC	1628	417	-1229	-1248	368
Others incl. taxes	238	640	570	1100	1662
Operating cash-flow	3179	5509	10993	8143	8021
- Capex (tang. + intang.)	12949	3864	11030	10500	9941
Free cash-flow	-9770	1645	-37	-2357	-1920
Acquisitions					
- Div.(incl. buyback & taxes)	603	696	696	501	501
+ Equity raised	0	0	0	0	0
+ Debt raised	-331	-1	2791	3000	1700
- Fin investments	1080	2046	-406	0	0
- Misc. (CFI + CFF)	-10858	-290	1294	200	0
Net cash-flow	-926	-809	1169	-58	-720

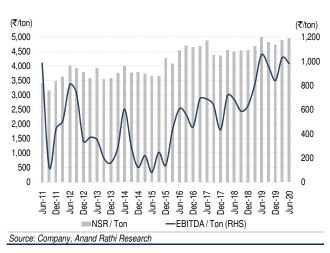
### Fig 5 – Price movement



Fig 2 – Balance she												
Year-end: Mar	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21e	FY22e							
Share capital	770	770	770	770	770							
Net worth	42,798	44,952	48,061	50,595	53,973							
Debt	45,300	45,300	48,090	51,090	52,790							
Minority interest	0											
DTL / (Assets)	7,449	7,422	8,568	8,568	8,568							
Capital employed	95,547	97,674	1,04,719	1,10,253	1,15,331							
Net tangible assets	63,737	62,941	63,742	71,620	90,051							
Net intangible assets	9,949	9,701	9,513	9,513	9,513							
Good will	2	0	0	0	C							
CWIP (tang. & intang.)	7,623	9,141	16,039	15,000	2,000							
Investments (strategic)	2,500	2,764	1,600	1,600	1,600							
Investments (financial)	4,222	6,003	6,762	6,762	6,762							
Current assets (ex cash)	20,515	21,376	21,540	20,839	23,226							
Cash	2,198	1,390	2,558	2,500	1,780							
Current liabilities	15,198	15,642	17,035	17,582	19,601							
Working capital	5,317	5,734	4,506	3,258	3,625							
Capital deployed	95,547	97,675	1,04,720	1,10,253	1,15,331							
Contingent liabilities	4,263	4,241	-	-	-							

### Fig 4 – Ratio analysis

Year-end: Mar	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21e	FY22e
P/E (x)	33.0	15.8	6.3	16.6	13.0
EV / EBITDA (x)	11.6	8.3	5.3	8.1	7.0
EV / Sales (x)	1.6	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.3
P/B (x)	1.3	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.9
RoE (%)	4.4	5.8	10.9	6.2	7.4
RoCE (%) - after tax	5.1	5.1	7.2	5.0	5.6
DPS (₹ / sh)	6.5	7.5	7.5	6.5	6.5
Dividend payout (%) - incl. DDT	39.2	27.2	13.8	16.5	12.9
Net debt / equity (x)	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
WC days	28.7	30.8	27.0	22.2	17.6
EV / ton (\$)(Cement)	60.8	51.6	47.4	63.6	52.6
NSR / ton (₹)	4543	4571	4840	4900	5020
EBITDA / ton (₹)	621	683	965	901	975
Volumes (m tons)	12.4	13.6	13.6	12.4	13.6
CFO: PAT (%)	191.0	215.4	217.6	268.4	206.8
Source: Company, Anand Rathi Resea	rch				



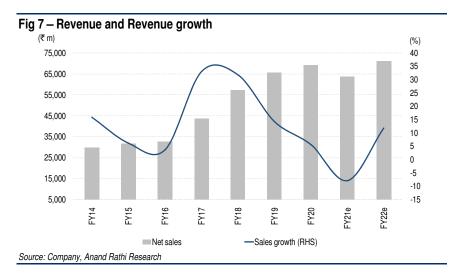
### Fig 6 – Quarterly per-ton NSR and EBITDA trends

## Key highlights

Birla Corp's Q1 revenue declined 35% y/y to ₹12.2bn because of the 33% y/y drop in volumes to 2.4m tons and realisations dipping 1.06% y/y to ₹4,956/ton. The topline was impacted by severe disruptions in its key markets and manufacturing centres due to the Covid-19 pandemic and soft prices in the East. Capacity utilisation declined to 58%, from 96% a year ago.

Clinker production at the company's Satna and Chanderia plants could not start immediately after the general easing of the lockdown due to districtspecific conditions. Similarly, the company's two grinding units in Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh, could resume production only in early May, leading to loss of sales in lucrative home markets.

On the arrival of the monsoon, from end-Jun cement prices have started to weaken in key markets. The company is seeing demand from government-led infrastructure projects and release of funds for welfare schemes such as MGNREGA and PMGKY.



EBITDA/ton for the quarter declined 6.8% y/y to ₹982 on account of low fixed-cost absorption and capacity utilization and the adverse situation in some of the company's key markets.

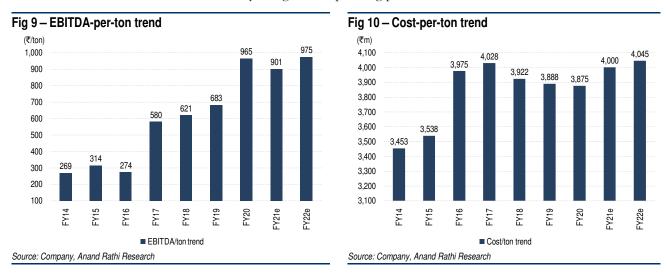
The company maintained the share of blended cement at 94%, whereas the sale of premium products declined to 36% of trade sales, compared to 44% in Q1 FY20. The share of trade sales was 86% of sales volumes (84% a year ago).

PAT for the quarter declined 53% y/y to ₹658m on lower operating profit, partially offset by lower interest expenses (down 16.7% y/y) and higher other income.

Fig 8 – Operational details											
Particulars (%)	Q1 FY21	Q1FY20	Q4 FY20	FY20	FY19						
Blended Cement	94	94	92	93	89						
Trade Channel	86	84	80	81	81						
Premium Cement(% of Trade sales)	36	44	43	41	37						
Capacity Utilisation	58	96	93	91	89						
Source: Company											

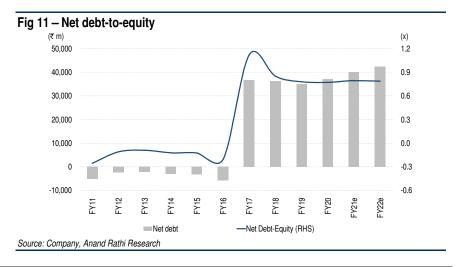
### The jute division

Hit by the lockdown and cyclone Amphan, jute production volumes plunged 80%, leading to EBITDA loss of ₹34.2m vs EBITDA of ₹48.3m a year ago. The company's jute mill at Birlapur in West Bengal could operate for only 16 days during the quarter ending June contrasted with 89 days in the year-ago corresponding period.



### **Project Update**

- Mukutban: The factory with 2.64m tons clinker capacity and 3.9m tons cement capacity with its own railway siding is expected to be commissioned by Q2 FY22. The proposed unit is to have a 40MW plant and a 9MW WHRS. Of ₹24.5bn, the company spent ₹10.85bn on the project till FY20.
- Kundanganj: The company has decided to keep the ₹2.5bn expansion of its Kundanganj unit on hold for now to restrict debt and conserve liquidity.
- Chanderia: It is expanding the kiln capacity of its Chanderia unit in Rajasthan, expected to be complete by end-FY21, when capacity will be augmented by around 400,000 tons. Of ₹1.5bn, it has spent ₹700m till FY20
- **Durgapur:** The BOD approved a proposal to expand the Durgapur GU capacity by 0.24m tons to 1.54m tons at capex of ₹725.7m, expected to be commissioned by Q3 FY23.



# **Result Highlights**

Fig 12 - Quarterly	Fig 12 – Quarterly Trend												
(₹ m)	Q3 FY18	Q4 FY18	Q1 FY19	Q2 FY19	Q3 FY19	Q4 FY19	Q1 FY20	Q2 FY20	Q3 FY20	Q4 FY20	Q1 FY21	% Y/Y	% Q/Q
Sales	13,893	16,506	16,545	14,646	15,569	18,728	18,838	16,269	17,151	16,900	12,220	-35%	-28%
EBITDA	1,387	2,507	2,464	1,856	2,071	3,095	3,847	3,121	2,946	3,446	2,331	-39%	-32%
EBITDA margin (%)	10.0	15.2	14.9	12.7	13.3	16.5	20.4	19.2	17.2	20.4	19.1	-134bps	-132bps
EBITDA per ton (₹)	432	715	684	585	629	807	1,053	958	839	1,029	982	-7%	-5%
Interest	958	829	952	935	922	896	960	1,030	977	909	800	-17%	-12%
Depreciation	823	836	857	870	836	829	862	879	884	894	877	2%	-2%
Other income	141	334	232	203	106	244	169	199	203	281	190	13%	-32%
PBT	(252)	1,177	887	254	419	1,615	2,192	1,411	1,289	1,924	845	-61%	-56%
Tax	(34)	(135)	48	91	146	333	786	527	474	(24)	188	-76%	-894%
PAT	(218)	1,311	839	163	274	1,282	1,406	883	815	1,947	658	-53%	-66%

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

(₹ m)	Q3 FY18	Q4 FY18	Q1 FY19	Q2 FY19	Q3 FY19	Q4 FY19	Q1 FY20	Q2 FY20	Q3 FY20	Q4 FY20	Q1 FY21	% Y/Y	% Q/Q
Revenue													
-Jute	657	968	722	717	956	918	801	877	887	768	326	-59%	-58%
-Cement	13,227	15,528	15,822	13,923	14,616	17,807	18,033	15,391	16,268	16,133	11,894	-34%	-26%
-Others	15	11	15	17	20	15	16	20	31	15	10	-41%	-36%
Total	13,899	16,507	16,558	14,657	15,592	18,741	18,850	16,289	17,186	16,915	12,229	-35%	-28%
Less: Inter-segment revenue	5	2	13	11	23	13	11	20	35	16	10	-15%	-37%
Net sales	13,893	16,506	16,545	14,645	15,569	18,728	18,838	16,269	17,151	16,900	12,220	-35%	-28%
PBIT													
-Jute	53	48	32	36	29	9	31	34	44	28	(43)	P2L	P2L
% of revenue	8.1	4.9	4.4	5.0	3.0	1.0	3.8	3.8	4.9	3.6	(13.0)	NA	NA
-Cement	664	1,723	1,858	1,300	1,157	2,395	3,116	2,360	2,170	2,815	1,660	-47%	-41%
% of revenue	5.0	11.1	11.7	9.3	7.9	13.4	17.3	15.3	13.3	17.4	14.0	-333bps	-349bps
-Others	(8)	(10)	(5)	(9)	(8)	(10)	(5)	(8)	(7)	(7)	(13)	NA	NA
% of revenue	(55.2)	(83.3)	(33.6)	(51.1)	(39.9)	(66.2)	(31.7)	(40.2)	(21.4)	(48.0)	(132.6)	NA	NA
Total	709	1,761	1,885	1,327	1,178	2,394	3,142	2,385	2,207	2,836	1,605	-49%	-43%
Less: Interest	958	829	952	935	922	896	960	1,030	977	909	800	-17%	-12%
Less: Other unalloc. exp. net of unalloc. inc.	4	(245)	46	139	(164)	(116)	(10)	(55)	(59)	3	(40)	NA	NA
PBT (before extraord.)	(252)	1,177	887	253	419	1,615	2,192	1,411	1,289	1,924	845	-61%	-56%

## **Valuations**

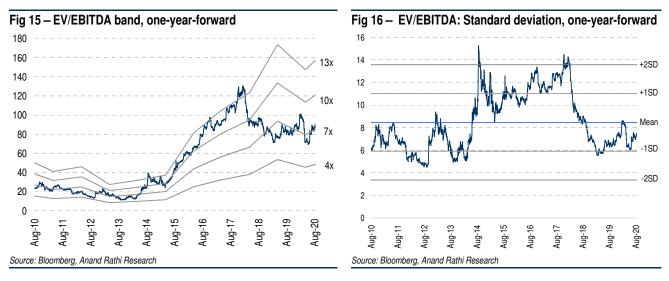
A judicious geographic- and product-mix aimed at increasing the share of blended and premium cement within its portfolio are positives. Birla Corp's strong brand focus, various cost-saving measures (WHRS/solar plant/railway siding at Kundanganj) would help, operationally. The adoption of the new tax regime (Section 115 BAA of The IT Act, 1962) by three subsidiaries (RCCPL, Birla Jute Supply, Lok Cements) out of seven would save on taxes. The frequent local lockdowns and floods in Bihar are hurting demand. Besides ongoing expansion, the BOD further approved Durgapur expansion to cater premium slag demand in East. We do not expect much rise in the Net D/E backed by expected profitability improvement despite leveraged B/S.

### **Change in estimates**

We have broadly maintained our revenue estimates. However, we raise FY21e EBITDA 5% and FY21e/FY22e PAT 24%/13.5%.

Fig 14 – Cha	Fig 14 – Change in estimates											
	New		Old		Variance							
(₹ m)	FY21e	FY22e	FY21e	FY22e	% chg	% chg						
Sales	63,720	71,240	64,217	70,404	(0.8)	1.2						
EBITDA	11,347	13,507	10,810	13,386	5.0	0.9						
PAT	3,034	3,879	2,447	3,416	24.0	13.5						
Source: Anand Ra	athi Research	- ,		- , -								

We maintain our Buy rating on the stock, while raising our target price to ₹830 (earlier ₹650), valuing it at 8x FY22e EV/EBITDA, and \$62 EV/ton, based on the current market price and the company's high leverage



### Risk

- Extension of the lockdown
- Rise in pet-coke and diesel prices.

Fig 16 – Peer com	parison – V	Valuation	S				
	CMP	P/E (x)	)	EV / EBITD	A (x)	EV / ton	(\$)
	(₹)	FY21e	FY22e	FY21e	FY22e	FY21e	FY22e
Birla Corp.	653	16.6	13.0	8.1	7.0	64	53
Dalmia Bharat	769	NA	NA	8.1	7.2	99	88
Deccan Cement	246	11.5	7.5	5.2	3.3	19	16
Heidelberg Cement	183	18.8	13.7	9.1	7.0	83	77
India Cement	117	NA	30.4	12.9	9.4	58	59
JK Cement	1,600	33.3	21.2	15.7	11.4	124	119
JK Lakshmi	286	17.9	11.7	7.6	5.5	48	42
Mangalam Cement	202	14.6	8.2	7.0	5.0	38	35
NCL Indus	91	11.1	7.8	5.4	4.5	31	31
Orient Cement	71	25.3	12.7	7.5	5.7	41	38
Prism Johnson	46	NA	28.1	10.7	7.7	51	49
Ramco Cement	688	38.6	25.4	21.3	14.9	126	121
Sanghi Indus	25	NA	14.0	11.9	7.7	42	41
Source: Anand Rathi Resea	rch						

### Appendix

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Ratings Guide (12 months)				
	Buy	Hold	Sell	
Large Caps (>US\$1bn)	>15%	5-15%	<5%	
Mid/Small Caps ( <us\$1bn)< td=""><td>&gt;25%</td><td>5-25%</td><td>&lt;5%</td><td></td></us\$1bn)<>	>25%	5-25%	<5%	

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