

09 November 2025

India | Equity Research | Results Update

# **National Aluminium Company**

Metals & Mining

# Awaiting volumes growth; committing significant capex on smelter

National Aluminium Company (NALCO)'s Q2FY26 EBITDA, at INR 19.2bn, was 29% ahead of our estimates, largely driven by a sharp increase in alumina sales volumes. NALCO continues to guide for 1.25–1.28mn tonnes of alumina sales in FY26, while 1mntpa alumina refinery expansion is expected to be completed in Q1FY27 (guiding for 500Kte of volume). Aluminium sales target is at 460Kte. The company plans to double its aluminium capacity by FY30 and is embarking on a capex of INR 300bn (INR 170–200bn on smelter and rest on power plant) starting from FY27–28. We roll over our target multiple to FY28 and arrive at a revised TP of INR 246 (5x FY28E EV/EBITDA). Downgrade to **HOLD**.

# Favourable LME and higher alumina led outperformance

NALCO's EBITDA of INR 19.2bn rose 24% YoY/29% QoQ on strong LME and better-than-expected alumina sales volumes. Key points: 1) Alumina sales volume was at a multi-quarter high of 396Kte (+39%/+30% YoY/QoQ), partially aided by inventory liquidation. Realisation shrank 3% QoQ to USD 408/te (-24% YoY). 2) Aluminium sales volume was at 112kte (-7%/-1% YoY/QoQ). However, realisation was up by 9%/5% YoY/QoQ to USD 2,938/te. 3) Captive coal (landed cost of INR 1,600–1,700/te) and lower use of grid power kept power costs in check. 4) Alumina EBIT was at INR 6.2bn (+5%/+24% YoY/QoQ). 5) Aluminium EBIT was at INR 11.9bn (+39%/+32% YoY/QoQ). 6) Caustic soda prices were up to INR 41,000/te vs. INR 37,000/te sequentially. 7) Employee cost was also lower due to gradual superannuation of high-cost employees.

# Awaiting refinery commissioning; big capex coming soon

NALCO is now guiding for 1mntpa of alumina refinery commissioning in Q1FY27, which is expected to take 4–6 months to ramp up; thus, is expected to contribute c.500Kte production target in FY27 and full in FY28. However, post this, the aluminium smelter will likely take until FY31 for commissioning; until then, NALCO's revenue would be a function of realisation and cost. The huge capex on smelter (INR 170–200bn for 500ktpe aluminium smelter and INR 120bn on CPP) may turn the net cash status to debt, apart from impacting dividends. We remain cautious, as NALCO is prone to delaying projects.

# **Financial Summary**

Y/E March (INR mn)	FY25A	FY26A	FY27E	FY28E
Net Revenue	167,876	156,905	160,602	179,045
EBITDA	75,646	67,491	64,832	71,390
EBITDA Margin (%)	45.1	43.0	40.4	39.9
Net Profit	53,247	47,495	44,590	49,258
EPS (INR)	29.0	25.9	24.3	26.8
EPS % Chg YoY	226.0	(10.8)	(6.1)	10.5
P/E (x)	8.1	9.1	9.7	8.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	4.9	5.2	5.3	4.6
RoCE (%)	33.2	24.9	19.8	19.1
RoE (%)	34.8	26.4	21.1	20.3

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## **Market Data**

Market Cap (INR)	431bn
Market Cap (USD)	4,863mn
Bloomberg Code	NACL IN
Reuters Code	NALU.BO
52-week Range (INR)	263/138
Free Float (%)	49.0
ADTV-3M (mn) (USD)	23.0

Price Performance (%)	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	23.7	48.3	(1.6)
Relative to Sensex	20.5	45.2	(6.3)

ESG Score	2023	2024	Change
ESG score	63.3	56.9	-6.4
Environment	43.6	43.1	-0.5
Social	65.6	64.7	-0.9
Governance	78.1	65.0	-13.1

**Note** - Score ranges from 0 - 100 with a higher score indicating higher ESG disclosures.

Source: SES ESG, I-sec research

## **Previous Reports**

09-08-2025: <u>Re-initiating Coverage</u> 23-05-2025: <u>Q4FY25</u> results review



# Outlook: Favourable LME driving performance; lack of growth remains a weak point

Spot LME aluminium is hovering ~USD 2,850, which is 9% higher than Q2 averages. This is expected to largely compensate for the sharp drop in alumina prices to ~USD 320, from Q2's average of USD 380/t. We expect alumina to be in surplus in CY26–27E, which could keep alumina prices under pressure for some more time, diluting the lucrativeness of the upcoming alumina plant. NALCO has announced a massive capex of ~INR 3,00bn in 500Kte smelter, which runs the risk of turning the company from net cash to net debt in the long run. Though valuations are at comfortable levels, softer alumina demand outlook and prices will likely be dilutive of strong LME aluminium story.

We are rolling our target multiple to FY28E and arrive at a revised target price of INR 246, based on 5x FY28E EV/EBITDA. Downgrade to **HOLD**.

# Key risks

- Sharp fall in alumina/aluminium prices.
- Delays or cost overruns in upcoming alumina refinery.
- Disruptions in captive coal mines.

# Q2FY26 conference call takeaways

In Q2FY26 – 1) bauxite excavation increased by ~13% YoY; 2) alumina production increased by ~15% QoQ; and 3) cast metal production increased by 4%. YoY.

## Guidance

- Nalco is targeting 4-5 alumina shipments per month in export market and 10-12kte in domestic market in H2FY26.
- Management expects alumina volumes of ~600-650kte in H2FY26 with avg. price of INR 32,000-34,000/te; while maintaining annual guidance of 1.2-1.25mnte.
- o Management anticipates LME prices to be in the range of USD 2,800-2,900/te in H2FY26.
- Management expects employee cost to ease to ~15% (currently at ~18%) as high-cost employees across departments are retiring in the next couple of years.
- **CoP:** In H1FY26, prices of caustic soda have been higher; thus, higher CoP. Management expects CoP to remain in the same level or slightly dip in H2FY26.
- Power and fuel cost: Compared to H1FY25, costs were dipped by ~INR 530mn in H1FY26. In H2FY26, with increase in captive coal consumption and advantage of ~INR 670mn from MCL coal, management expects further reduction.
- Captive coal: In FY25, captive coal consumption was ~2.6mnte; while management projects FY26 consumption to be ~4mnte. Production was ~2mnte in H1FY26.
- Alumina: Production of ~50% is consumed internally in the smelter; while the rest is sold in domestic & export market.
- Inventory: Capacity to hold 75kte in Vizag silos and 36kte in Namanjodi silos.
- **Kabil JV:** Acquired 5 mines in Argentina and non-invasive exploration has been completed with good results. Invasive exploration to follow up.



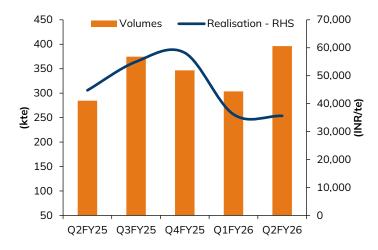
- **Project update:** 1) Refinery expansion has been completed by ~80% and expected to be commissioned by Jun'26 which will operate at 3.1mntpa (currently at 2.1mntpa). 2) Alumina (5<sup>th</sup> stream) expansion is on track and expected to be commissioned by Jun'26 (revised from Sep'25); with remaining capex of INR 6-7bn (capex of INR 45bn has been already incurred by the project). 3) Pottangi Bauxite mine MDO appointment process is ongoing; expect mine to start by May'26. 4) The refinery is expected to deliver at-least INR 10,000-11,000/te margins.
- Smelter capex of INR 300bn expansion of the smelter is on the anvil; with and expected capex of ~INR 300bn (INR 170–200 for smelter and INR 100-110bn for power plant) by 2030. The capex is expected to start from H2FY27.

Exhibit 1: NALCO Q2FY26 performance review

(INR mn)	Q2FY26	Q2FY25 _	YoY	O1FY26 _	QoQ	H1FY26	H1FY25 _	YoY
(			growth %		growth %			growth %
Net Sales	42,923	40,015	7.3	38,069	12.8	80,993	68,576	18.1
EBITDA	19,259	15,490	24.3	14,921	29.1	34,180	24,832	37.6
EBITDA Margin (%)	44.9	38.7		39.2		42.2	36.2	
Other Income	1,515	718	111.0	1,235	22.6	2,750	1,323	107.8
Interest	84	44	88.7	80	4.0	164	78	109.2
Depreciation	1,738	1,798	-3.4	1,783	-2.6	3,521	3,541	-0.6
PBT	18,952	14,365	31.9	14,293	32.6	33,245	22,535	47.5
Tax	4,621	3,744	23.4	3,654	26.4	8,275	5,902	40.2
Reported PAT	14,332	10,621	34.9	10,639	34.7	24,970	16,633	50.1
Adj PAT	14,332	10,621	34.9	10,639	34.7	24,970	16,633	50.1
PAT Margin (%)	33.4	26.5		27.9		30.8	24.3	
EPS (INR)	7.8	5.8	34.9	5.8	34.7	13.6	9.1	50.1

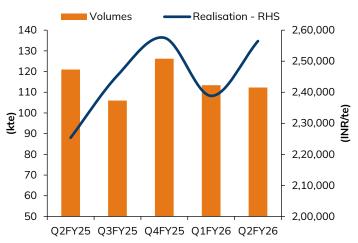
Source: I-Sec research, Company data

**Exhibit 2:** Alumina volume and realisation



Source: I-Sec research, Company data

**Exhibit 3:** Aluminium volume and realisation



Source: I-Sec research, Company data



**Exhibit 4: NALCO segmental performance review** 

(INR mn)	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26	Q2FY26	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
Segment Revenues							
Alumina	17,026	25,161	25,367	16,281	18,341	7.7	12.6
Aluminium	27,268	26,014	32,503	27,083	28,804	5.6	6.4
Others	92	94	45	92	138	50.5	51.0
Gross sales	44,386	51,270	57,914	43,456	47,282	6.5	8.8
Less: Intersegment	4,371	4,647	5,236	5,387	4,359	-0.3	-19.1
Net Sales	40,015	46,622	52,678	38,069	42,923	7.3	12.8
Segment EBIT							
Alumina	5,947	12,871	13,320	5,028	6,237	4.9	24.0
Aluminium	8,563	9,503	14,325	8,982	11,894	38.9	32.4

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

# **Exhibit 5: NALCO cost incidence**

% of Sales	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26	Q2FY26
Raw Material Consumed	16.1	11.3	11.5	11.4	13.7
Power & Fuel	20.2	17.7	16.0	19.1	17.1
Employee Rem & Benefits	11.9	9.2	7.8	11.7	10.3
Other Manufacturing Expenses	13.0	11.8	12.3	18.6	14.1

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 6: Target price sensitivity to LME at 5.0x FY28E EV/EBITDA

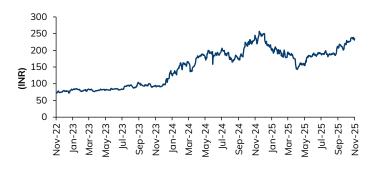
	Alumina								
		230	260	290	320	350	380	410	440
	2,300	145	161	177	193	209	225	241	256
E	2,450	163	179	195	211	227	242	258	274
Aluminium	2,600	181	197	213	228	244	260	276	292
ië	2,750	199	214	230	246	262	278	294	310
j	2,900	216	232	248	264	280	296	312	327
∢	3,050	234	250	266	282	298	313	329	345
	3,200	252	268	284	299	315	331	347	363
	3,350	270	285	301	317	333	349	365	381

Source: I-Sec research

**Exhibit 7: Shareholding pattern** 

%	Mar'25	Jun'25	Sep'25
Promoters	51.3	51.3	51.3
Institutional investors	31.5	30.8	31.7
MFs and others	9.4	9.2	9.5
FIs/Banks	0.0	0.0	0.0
Insurance	6.3	6.5	6.0
FIIs	15.8	15.1	16.2
Others	17.2	17.9	17.1

**Exhibit 8: Price chart** 



Source: Bloomberg Source: Bloomberg

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# **Financial Summary**

# **Exhibit 9: Profit & Loss**

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY25A	FY26A	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	167,876	156,905	160,602	179,045
Operating Expenses	72,499	68,697	71,787	77,236
EBITDA	75,646	67,491	64,832	71,390
EBITDA Margin (%)	45.1	43.0	40.4	39.9
Depreciation & Amortization	7,276	7,640	8,022	8,423
EBIT	68,371	59,852	56,810	62,967
Interest expenditure	-	-	-	-
Other Non-operating	3,570	3,749	3,824	3,900
Income	3,570	3,749	5,024	3,900
Recurring PBT	71,351	63,128	60,256	66,565
Profit / (Loss) from				
Associates	-	-	-	-
Less: Taxes	18,104	15,633	15,667	17,307
PAT	53,247	47,495	44,590	49,258
Less: Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Extraordinaries (Net)	-	-	-	-
Net Income (Reported)	53,247	47,495	44,590	49,258
Net Income (Adjusted)	53,247	47,495	44,590	49,258

Source Company data, I-Sec research

## **Exhibit 10: Balance sheet**

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY25A	FY26A	FY27E	FY28E
Total Current Assets	89,979	109,802	121,493	137,170
of which cash & cash eqv.	54,267	69,804	79,917	91,249
Total Current Liabilities &	33,740	32,157	32,685	34,138
Provisions	33,740	32,137	32,005	34,130
Net Current Assets	56,239	77,645	88,808	103,032
Investments	10,145	10,145	10,145	10,145
Net Fixed Assets	67,990	80,589	92,407	105,823
ROU Assets	-	-	-	-
Capital Work-in-Progress	49,347	48,347	53,347	58,347
Total Intangible Assets	9,507	9,407	9,307	9,207
Other assets	-	-	-	-
Deferred Tax Assets	-	-	-	-
Total Assets	197,485	230,775	259,077	292,079
Liabilities				
Borrowings	1,242	1,242	1,242	1,242
Deferred Tax Liability	7,911	8,307	8,722	9,158
provisions	4,826	4,853	4,880	4,910
other Liabilities	3,047	3,205	3,372	3,547
Equity Share Capital	9,183	9,183	9,183	9,183
Reserves & Surplus	171,274	203,985	231,677	264,038
Total Net Worth	180,458	213,168	240,860	273,222
Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	197,485	230,775	259,077	292,079

Source Company data, I-Sec research

# **Exhibit 11: Cashflow statement**

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY25A	FY26A	FY27E	FY28E
Operating Cashflow	63,159	46,962	48,515	51,611
<b>Working Capital Changes</b>	5,495	(3,644)	(1,065)	(2,908)
Capital Commitments	(14,562)	(19, 139)	(24,739)	(26,739)
Free Cashflow	48,597	27,823	23,777	24,873
Other investing cashflow	(1,324)	3,404	3,444	3,483
Cashflow from Investing Activities	(15,886)	(15,735)	(21,295)	(23,256)
Issue of Share Capital	(3,813)	-	0	-
Interest Cost	(590)	(472)	(377)	(302)
Inc (Dec) in Borrowings	338	158	166	175
Dividend paid	(14,693)	(15,376)	(16,897)	(16,897)
Others	-	-	-	-
Cash flow from Financing Activities	(18,758)	(15,690)	(17,108)	(17,024)
Chg. in Cash & Bank balance	28,516	15,537	10,113	11,332
Closing cash & balance	54,267	69,804	79,917	91,249

Source Company data, I-Sec research

# Exhibit 12: Key ratios

(Year ending March)

, <u> </u>				
	FY25A	FY26A	FY27E	FY28E
Per Share Data (INR)				
Reported EPS	29.0	25.9	24.3	26.8
Adjusted EPS (Diluted)	29.0	25.9	24.3	26.8
Cash EPS	33.0	30.0	28.6	31.4
Dividend per share (DPS)	8.0	7.0	8.0	8.0
Book Value per share (BV)	98.3	116.1	131.1	148.8
Dividend Payout (%)	27.6	27.1	33.0	29.8
Growth (%)				
Net Sales	27.7	(6.5)	2.4	11.5
EBITDA	163.3	(10.8)	(3.9)	10.1
EPS (INR)	226.0	(10.8)	(6.1)	10.5
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	8.1	9.1	9.7	8.8
P/CEPS	7.1	7.8	8.2	7.5
P/BV	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.6
EV / EBITDA	4.9	5.2	5.3	4.6
P / Sales	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.4
Dividend Yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Operating Ratios				
Gross Profit Margins (%)	88.2	86.8	85.1	83.0
EBITDA Margins (%)	45.1	43.0	40.4	39.9
Effective Tax Rate (%)	25.4	24.8	26.0	26.0
Net Profit Margins (%)	31.7	30.3	27.8	27.5
NWC / Total Assets (%)	-	_	-	-
Net Debt / Equity (x)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)
Net Debt / EBITDA (x)	(0.8)	(1.2)	(1.4)	(1.4)
Profitability Ratios				
RoCE (%)	33.2	24.9	19.8	19.1
RoE (%)	34.8	26.4	21.1	20.3
RoIC (%)	45.1	36.8	31.2	30.4
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	-	-	-	-
Inventory Turnover Days	47	46	45	49
Receivables Days	5	6	6	6
Payables Days	24	15	15	16
Source Company data, I-Sec resec	ırch			

Source Company data, I-Sec research



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