Metals & Mining



A new cycle born out of necessity – Wired by copper, backed by policy

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A repricing of reality is underway in global metals. The structural supply tightness, rising cost curves, alongside strong policy backing are rewriting the mining investment case. Copper and critical minerals now anchor a new phase of strategic extraction – a cycle born out of necessity, in our view. Copper prices are trading close to record highs of USD11,000/t, with the recent uptrend supported by cyclical inflection, supply disruption at the Grasberg mine in Indonesia, and a favorable macro backdrop (with expectations of Fed rate cuts). Demand tailwind remains well supported, with the megatrends of data center buildout and electrification indicating that copper would head into a sustained deficit in coming years which would catalyze durable price strength. With limited direct plays for critical minerals, our favored picks are VEDL and HNDL.

Synchronized global necessity

Years of capital discipline, following the global mining capex peak of 2012 and a decline in new exploration activity, have constrained new mine supply. The copper project pipeline today covers barely half of the requirements in the medium term, while critical minerals like lithium, nickel, and rare earth elements face even sharper bottlenecks. This imbalance is forcing a repricing of both resources and equities, as markets begin to internalize scarcity as a structural, not-cyclical condition. We believe this creates an environment of synchronized global necessity, which is different from preceding cycles that fed on synchronized global growth. To back it up, we are now seeing examples of growing policy backing – the US government picked direct equity exposure in Trilogy Metals for its critical minerals push, the US and Australian governments committed capital for Alcoa's gallium project, the Indian government committed funds for critical minerals mission, China providing exploration capital, etc. We expect more emphasis to be placed on processing and refining capabilities, with an effort to diversify the supply chain. We expect that a cycle created out of necessity and backed by policy offers a longer rope to the miners

Metals inexpensive relative to global money supply scale; demand has become less elastic to prices, with emphasis on supply-chain resilience

We have observed interesting trends, which suggest that metals demand has become less elastic to prices, with the focus turning to supply-chain resilience. One, the imposition of 50% tariffs on steel and aluminium has been absorbed by the market without much impact on prices and demand. Incrementally, Midwest premiums have increased to the extent that they fully cover the impact of tariffs. Two, Ford flagged a USD1bn impact on its profitability, owing to a fire at Novelis's plant, underscoring the importance of supply-chain resilience. This gives an inherent message that the market is not concerned with metal price increase as much as it is by security of supply. In addition, metals as hard assets are now seen as strategic holdings at relatively inexpensive levels, especially in the context of the global monetary debasement narrative.

Non-ferrous equities - key beneficiaries

Positive
Positive

Equity view							
Stocks	Rating	CMP (Rs)	TP (Rs)				
Ferrous							
TATA	BUY	176.7	200.0				
JSTL	ADD	1,150.6	1,200.0				
JINDALST	REDUCE	1,034.3	1,000.0				
SAIL	BUY	129.9	155.0				
Non-Ferrous							
HNDL	BUY	840.8	900.0				
VEDL	BUY	505.3	550.0				
NACL	ADD	237.9 240.0					
Mining							
COAL	ADD	397.0	425.0				
Recycling							
GRAV	BUY	1,683.5	2,300.0				

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Rating, Target Price and Valuation

		CMP	TP	Upside	EV/EB	TDA (x)	P/E	(x)	P/E	3 (x)
	Rating	(Rs)	(Rs)	(%)	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
Hindalco	BUY	- 841	900	intended	for Team	White 5.8	10.5	10.2	mkay ¹ ,3 whi	temardues
Vedanta	BUY	505	550	9	5.0	4.4	12.0	9.9	4.3	3.9
National Aluminium Co	ADD	238	240	1	6.3	6.0	11.0	11.3	2.1	1.9

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Our analysis of past cycles indicates ~80% upside on average for copper prices over 2-3Y from a cycle trough

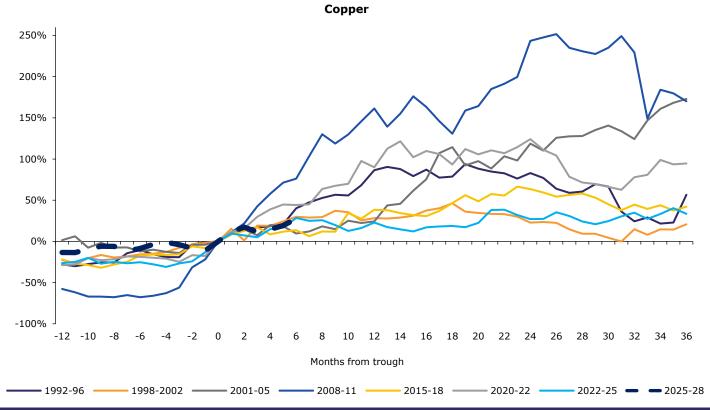
How to read this chart

We plot the trough of each cycle at point 0 (0-month). We then calculate how much the prices declined in the preceding 12 months to reach point 0. Subsequently, we calculate how much the prices rallied from the trough in the following 36 months. The analysis suggests that the cycle peaks around 28-30 months from the trough. The current cycle is plotted as a dotted blue line.

How to play

We sense that the duration and magnitude of this cycle offer a structural positioning opportunity to play the initial run-up, from the cycle lows of USD8,500/t in Apr-25. The average return from 0 to 28-months is 83% in all the past cycles. Likewise, the fall in the preceding 12 months to trough levels averages at 26%. This indicates that the risk-reward proposition is favorably placed to remain invested in copper through the cycles. The price return for this cycle is 28% so far, from the Apr-25 trough, and a favorable macro backdrop alongside supply disruptions point to further gains in coming months.

Exhibit 1: A new copper cycle in its infancy - indicating a potential rally over the next two years



Source: Bloomberg, Emkay Research

This report is intended for Team White Marque Solutions(team.emkay@whitemarquesolution

Exhibit 2: Global aluminium valuation comparison

Commoni	Year-end	C	CMP	M Con (UCD by)	Charleman VTD		P/E (x)			EV/EBITDA (x)		ROE (%)			Div Yield (%)			FCF Yield (%	ı)
Company	Year-end	Currency	CIVIP	M Cap (USD bn)	Stock perf Y ID	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
India																				
Hindalco	03/2025	INR	834.0	21.3	38%	10.8	10.1	9.0	6.9	6.7	6.0	13.1	12.6	13.0	0.6	0.7	0.8	-0.8	-2.2	4.6
Vedanta	03/2025	INR	500.2	22.2	13%	11.9	9.8	8.7	5.7	5.1	4.8	37.8	41.6	41.9	6.3	7.7	8.6	3.7	7.3	13.1
NALCO	03/2025	INR	237.1	4.9	12%	11.0	11.2	9.7	6.5	6.0	5.0	20.5	17.7	18.4	2.7	3.6	4.2	5.6	5.6	7.7
US	42/2024	usp	20.4	40.0	40/	44.7	42.0			4.0		45.7		47.4	4.0	4.0	4.6			
Alcoa Constellium	12/2024	USD	39.4	10.2	4% 65%	11.7	12.0	9.8	5.2	4.9	4.4	15.7	14.1	17.1	1.0	1.0	1.6	5.1 -6.2	5.1	5.1
	12/2024	USD	16.9			14.8	10.8	10.5	6.6	6.0	5.5	21.1	24.9	21.8	0.0	0.0	na		-6.2	-6.2
Kaiser Aluminum	12/2024	USD	95.8	1.6	36%	18.1	13.7	10.7	9.1	7.9	7.1	10.0	12.8	na	3.3	3.2	3.2	0.8	0.8	0.8
Europe																				
Norsk Hydro	12/2024	NOK	68.4	13.5	9%	11.9	10.7	9.4	5.2	5.2	4.8	11.6	11.5	12.4	4.5	5.3	6.2	7.4	7.4	7.4
MENA																				
Aluminium Bahrain	12/2024	BHD	1.1	4.0	-19%	5.5	3.3	3.1	4.3	3.1	3.0	11.9	19.9	21.1	6.0	10.0	16.7	8.1	8.1	8.1
Saudi Arabian Mining	12/2024	SAR	63.7	66.0	27%	33.4	29.3	29.1	18.3	17.5	17.6	13.0	12.1	10.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.6	1.6
China																				
CHALCO	12/2024	HKD	9.0	21.8	101%	10.5	9.6	9.0	6.3	5.9	5.8	17.8	17.2	16.5	3.5	3.7	4.2	13.3	13.3	13.3
Hongqiao Group	12/2024	HKD	28.3	34.7	141%	10.2	9.8	9.3	6.3	6.1	5.9	20.9	19.6	18.8	6.2	6.4	6.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
Australia																				
Rio Tinto	12/2024	AUD	133.5	121.3	14%	14.0	13.3	12.8	6.0	5.8	5.6	17.2	17.3	16.8	4.2	4.5	4.8	4.2	4.2	4.2
South32	06/2025	AUD	3.2	9.5	-5%	15.3	11.1	9.8	5.8	5.0	4.4	7.3	9.7	9.7	2.7	3.7	4.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
Weighted Average India						11.3	10.1	8.9	6.3	5.9	5.3	25.2	26.4	26.8	3.5	4.2	4.7	2.0	2.9	8.8
Weighted Average Global						12.5	11.5	10.8	6.0	5.7	5.4	17.3	17.3	16.9	3.3	3.7	4.0	4.5	4.7	5.5

Source: Bloomberg, Emkay Research

HINDALCO RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (Rs)	TP (Rs)	Rating	Analyst
09-Oct-25	774	900	Buy	Amit Lahoti
24-Sep-25	741	900	Buy	Amit Lahoti
10-Sep-25	743	650	Reduce	Amit Lahoti
27-Aug-25	706	650	Reduce	Amit Lahoti
18-Aug-25	714	650	Reduce	Amit Lahoti
13-Aug-25	701	650	Reduce	Amit Lahoti
11-Aug-25	673	650	Reduce	Amit Lahoti
10-Jul-25	675	650	Reduce	Amit Lahoti
28-Jun-25	697	650	Reduce	Amit Lahoti
02-Jun-25	631	650	Reduce	Amit Lahoti
31-May-25	634	650	Reduce	Amit Lahoti
29-May-25	650	650	Reduce	Amit Lahoti
21-May-25	663	650	Reduce	Amit Lahoti
28-Apr-25	629	600	Sell	Amit Lahoti
25-Apr-25	622	600	Sell	Amit Lahoti
09-Apr-25	564	600	Sell	Amit Lahoti
02-Apr-25	661	600	Sell	Amit Lahoti
19-Mar-25	699	550	Sell	Amit Lahoti
20-Feb-25	639	550	Sell	Amit Lahoti
15-Feb-25	606	550	Sell	Amit Lahoti

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND



Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

VEDANTA RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (Rs)	TP (Rs)	Rating	Analyst
17-Oct-25	474	550	Buy	Amit Lahoti
09-Oct-25	484	550	Buy	Amit Lahoti
29-Sep-25	452	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
10-Sep-25	434	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
27-Aug-25	428	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
18-Aug-25	438	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
01-Aug-25	424	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
10-Jul-25	439	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
01-Jul-25	466	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
28-Jun-25	464	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
02-Jun-25	432	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
31-May-25	436	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
29-May-25	452	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
02-May-25	415	525	Buy	Amit Lahoti
28-Apr-25	416	550	Buy	Amit Lahoti
25-Apr-25	413	550	Buy	Amit Lahoti
09-Apr-25	371	550	Buy	Amit Lahoti
19-Mar-25	461	575	Buy	Amit Lahoti
04-Mar-25	407	575	Buy	Amit Lahoti
20-Feb-25	434	575	Buy	Amit Lahoti

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND



Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

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NATIONAL ALUMINIUM CO RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (Rs)	TP (Rs)	Rating	Analyst
09-Oct-25	230	240	Add	Amit Lahoti
10-Sep-25	209	210	Buy	Amit Lahoti
27-Aug-25	186	210	Buy	Amit Lahoti
18-Aug-25	188	210	Buy	Amit Lahoti
09-Aug-25	187	210	Buy	Amit Lahoti
10-Jul-25	189	225	Buy	Amit Lahoti
28-Jun-25	191	225	Buy	Amit Lahoti
02-Jun-25	181	225	Buy	Amit Lahoti
31-May-25	180	225	Buy	Amit Lahoti
29-May-25	184	225	Buy	Amit Lahoti
22-May-25	185	225	Buy	Amit Lahoti
28-Apr-25	160	225	Buy	Amit Lahoti
25-Apr-25	157	225	Buy	Amit Lahoti
09-Apr-25	143	225	Buy	Amit Lahoti
19-Mar-25	186	275	Buy	Amit Lahoti
20-Feb-25	193	275	Buy	Amit Lahoti
11-Feb-25	183	275	Buy	Amit Lahoti
15-Jan-25	195	275	Buy	Amit Lahoti
07-Jan-25	206	275	Buy	Amit Lahoti
01-Jan-25	214	275	Buy	Amit Lahoti

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND



Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

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Ratings	Expected Return within the next 12-18 months.
BUY	>15% upside
ADD	5-15% upside
REDUCE	5% upside to 15% downside
SELL	>15% downside

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