any Note

Coal Mining | India | November 15, 2023

InCred Equities

India

REDUCE (no change)

Consensus ratings*: Buy 18 I	Hold 1 Sell 4
Current price:	Rs349
Target price:	Rs209
Previous target:	Rs209
Up/downside:	-40.1%
InCred Research / Consensus:	-38.6%
Reuters:	
Bloomberg:	COAL IN
Market cap:	US\$29,649m
	Rs2,152,949m
Average daily turnover:	US\$39.9m
	Rs2898.6m
Current shares o/s:	6,162.7m
Free float: *Source: Bloomberg	36.9%



Research Analyst(s)



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Coal India

E-auction prices to fall; retain REDUCE

- Rising output in Indonesia, China & India will lead to a global dip in 4,200 GCV coal prices. We feel they will go back to below the US\$40/t level (US\$58/t now).
- Rising output of CIL and continued 100mt of Indonesian coal imports will mean a fall in e-auction prices. E-auction will converge to FSA prices in 2-3 quarters.
- Production costs to rise as strip ratios are increasing & staff costs will rise from current levels. EPS to fall to Rs25 by FY26F. Retain REDUCE with Rs209 TP.

E-auction coal prices to fall as global, CIL production ramps up

The global energy panic in 2022 led to a surge in coal output as Europe navigated through an energy crisis. In 2022 and 2023, countries around the world produced more coal than they needed, leading to a global coal surplus exerting downward pressure on its prices. Global coal consumption has been less than the output for the past five years, which means there is already more coal supply in the market than its demand. The recent surge in coal output has only exacerbated this imbalance. More importantly, as Indonesian and Chinese coal production rises, India's import demand stays stagnant due to the rise in Coal India or CIL's output and there is normal slowdown in Chinese 4,200 GCV coal consumption (pollution concerns), leading the prices of 4,200 GCV coal to fall. The fall in Indonesian coal prices and higher e-auction offerings, we feel, will lead to a decline in e-auction prices.

Rise in costs likely as strip ratio goes up, staff costs to increase

The strip ratio in important fields like SECL (Southeastern Coal Fields) and MCL (Mahanadi Coal Fields) are going up (by 20% over the last two years in the case of SECL and by 6% in the case of MCL). The cost of OB (overburden) removal as measured in OBR adjustment + contractual cost has risen to Rs375/t in FY23. It will rise but to be on the conservative side, we have increased this cost by Re1/t per year to Rs377/t for FY26F. Similarly, in the last few years, the number of people leaving CIL's work force has declined to 9,000/annum from the last decade's average of ~20,000/annum. This will raise overall staff costs. Please note the cost per employee for CIL has become a whopping 8x in the last 18 years. Normal inflation and increment per annum means the cost per employee will rise at a 13-14% CAGR and overall staff costs to rise to Rs550bn in FY26F.

Reiterate REDUCE rating with a target price of Rs209

The ESG concerns derated the CIL stock between FY15-FY22. Please note that Indian government's focus remains on renewables. In a normal bull market, stocks like SAIL and CIL start running when there is lack of options in these sectors. As of now, in the energy sector, no one knows what the government will do with fuel pricing vis-à-vis oil marketing companies or OMCs. CIL is a safer bet in this respect. However, as the world goes back to normalcy, ESG will become a vociferous voice again which will be negative for CIL. A good option is to buy CIL when the EPS growth is visible and the P/E is left to the market but currently we are betting on a P/E rerating, which is dangerous. We value CIL at 8x 12-month forward EPS to arrive at a one-year forward target price of Rs209.

Financial Summary	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Revenue (Rsm)	1,097,135	1,382,519	1,380,615	1,389,716	1,422,923
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	246,905	368,179	284,078	228,748	203,022
Net Profit (Rsm)	173,784	281,249	209,578	168,629	153,410
Core EPS (Rs)	28.2	45.6	34.0	27.4	24.9
Core EPS Growth	36.8%	61.8%	(25.5%)	(19.5%)	(9.0%)
FD Core P/E (x)	12.39	7.65	10.27	12.77	14.03
DPS (Rs)	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
Dividend Yield	3.58%	3.58%	3.58%	3.58%	3.58%
EV/EBITDA (x)	7.31	4.70	5.66	6.53	6.83
P/FCFE (x)	17.89	8.46	7.64	10.58	10.99
Net Gearing	(75.7%)	(68.7%)	(74.9%)	(80.6%)	(85.8%)
P/BV (x)	4.99	3.76	3.05	2.70	2.47
ROE	43.6%	56.0%	32.8%	22.5%	18.4%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates					
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

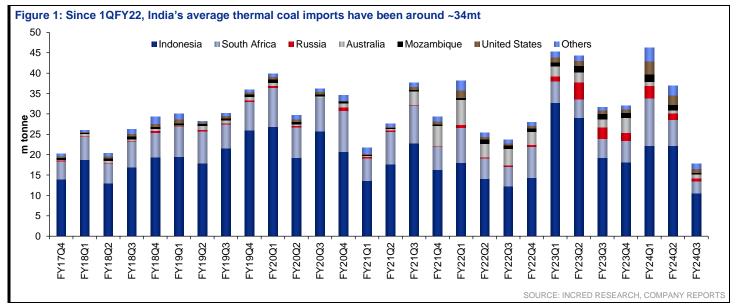
E-auction prices to fall; retain REDUCE

Markets are sanguine about the prospects of Coal India's profitability. The inevitable demolition of a farce known as the ESG framework has also helped Coal India's rerating. As always, we won't go into the argument of what is the right P/E for Coal India but rather we have shown how the consensus earnings estimates are just too high.

India's steam coal imports are primarily from Indonesia - it is difficult to replace them with CIL's supplies

Over the years, India has remained one of the biggest steam coal importers. The failure of Coal India to ramp up production has remained one of the primary reasons for high coal imports. Apart from Indonesia, India has also imported coal from South Africa and Australia.

Indonesia has remained one of the biggest coal suppliers for India \blacktriangleright

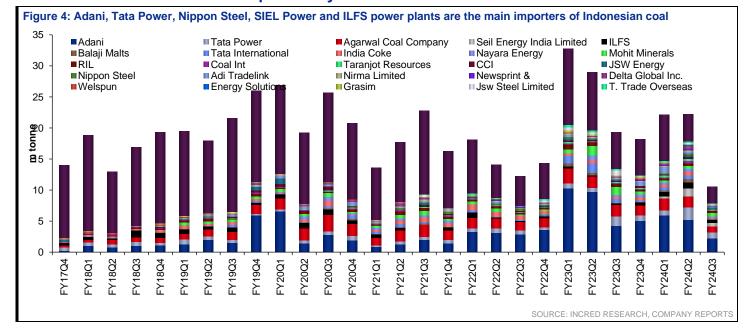




Coal imports from Indonesia have always determined e-auction prices for Coal India ➤



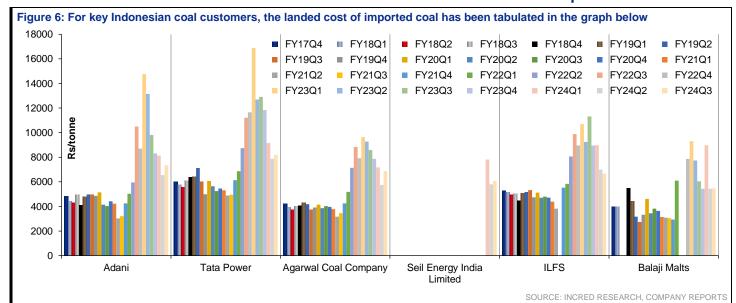
Most coal imports from Indonesia were by actual users in the past few years ➤



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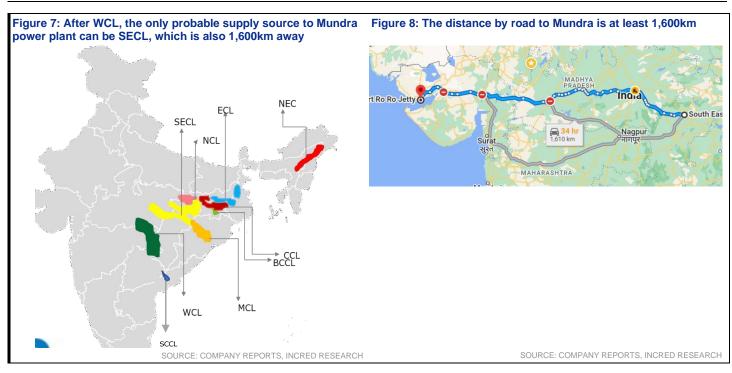
Most of these plants are near the ports where the landed cost of CIL's coal will not be viable vis-à-vis imported coal >



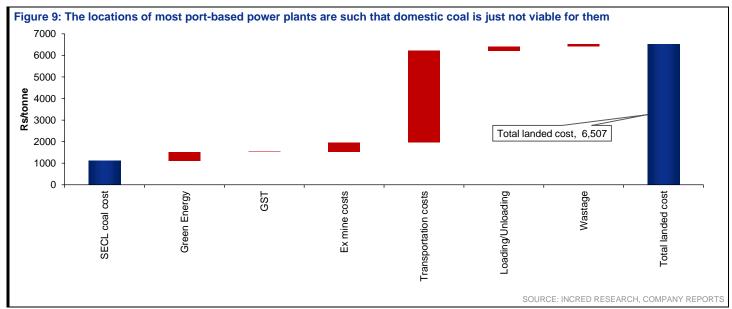
As was the case in FY17 so it is now - the landed prices of CIL coal at Adani power plant is in excess of Rs6,000/t and the supply is not guaranteed >

Only SECL can supply coal to the Mundra power plant, even in a theoretical case, because the price of WCL coal is just too high. The cost of coal for ILFS and SEIL Energy power plants will be even higher.

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The cost of road transportation is at least Rs2.5/ tonne km or tkm.



Traders account for 30-40% of coal imports from Indonesia, and replacing it with CIL's supply is tough ➤

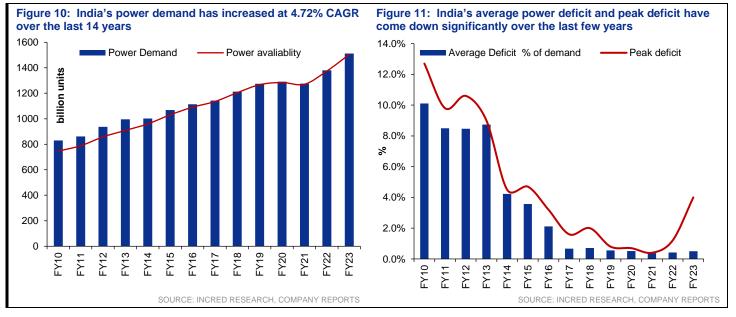
Traders account for almost 30-40% of the coal imports from Indonesia. Replacing these coal imports with the supply from CIL is easier said than done. Please note that customers of these traders are small, and the supply chain has been built over multiple years of coal scarcity. Even if CIL starts producing coal in billion tonnes, still the company will find it difficult to sell it to the traders.

Power demand @7% – e-acution coal will be in surplus

India's thermal power capacity can touch 261GW by FY28F >

India is one of the few countries in the world which is still building thermal power plants. As of now, around 50GW of power plants are under construction and currently the coal-based power plant capacity in India is around 211GW. We assume that over the next five years, all these power plants will be commissioned and by end of FY28F, India will have installed thermal power capacity of 261GW.

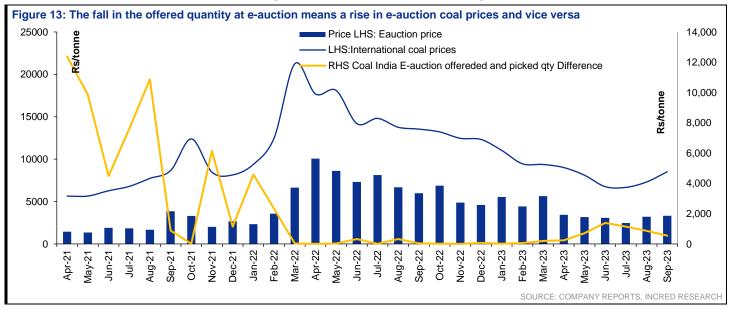
India's power demand growth has been at a 4.7% CAGR over the last 14 years, and the deficit has come down significantly >



Overall, one can expect the power demand to grow @7% CAGR, thermal plants' PLF to rise to 72% by FY28F, and e-auction coal to be in surplus ➤

			Indian Power	Demand Growth	7%							
	Coal-based plant capacity	PLF	Power generation	Overall power demand	Production by other means than thermal	Other power capacity	PLF of other plants	Coal needed	Coal India production target	Other demand	E-auction coal available	E-auction coal demand
FY23	211	64%	1,185.72	1,512	326	1,97,955	18.8%	586.0	700	30.0	84.0	64
FY24	218	67%	1,279.49	1,618	338	2,17,955	17.7%	667.7	800	33.0	99.3	60
FY25	226	69%	1,366.03	1,731	365	2,37,955	17.5%	719.6	900	36.3	144.1	60
FY26	238	70%	1,462.48	1,852	390	2,57,955	17.2%	777.5	1000	40.0	182.6	60
FY27	251	70%	1,539.13	1,982	443	2,77,955	18.2%	823.5	1050	44.0	182.6	60
FY28	261	72%	1.646.18	2.120	474	2,97,955	18.2%	887.7	1100	48.3	164.0	60

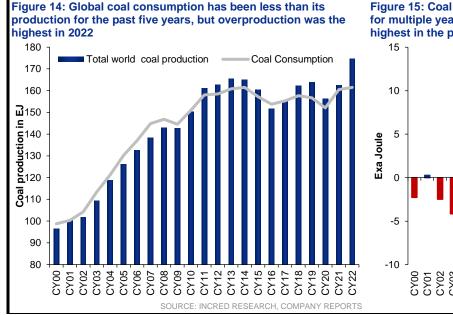
Surplus e-auction coal= fall in prices ➤

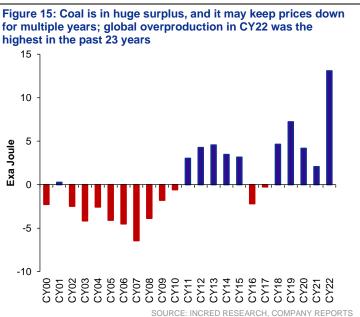


What about international coal prices? They will fall

Global energy panic led to huge coal production in CY22 >

There is always a case of overdoing in commodities and the same happened in the case of coal in 2022. As Europe was navigating through an energy crisis, coal was overproduced globally. Probably, the highest in the last decade.

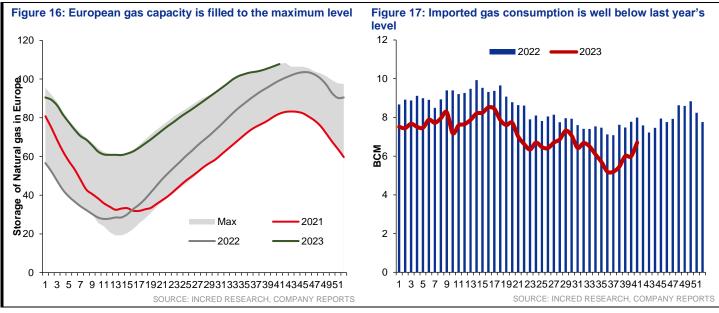




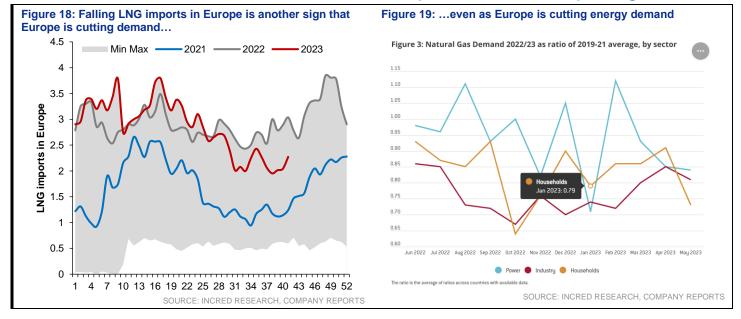
European coal demand to taper off as gas supply is adequate **>**

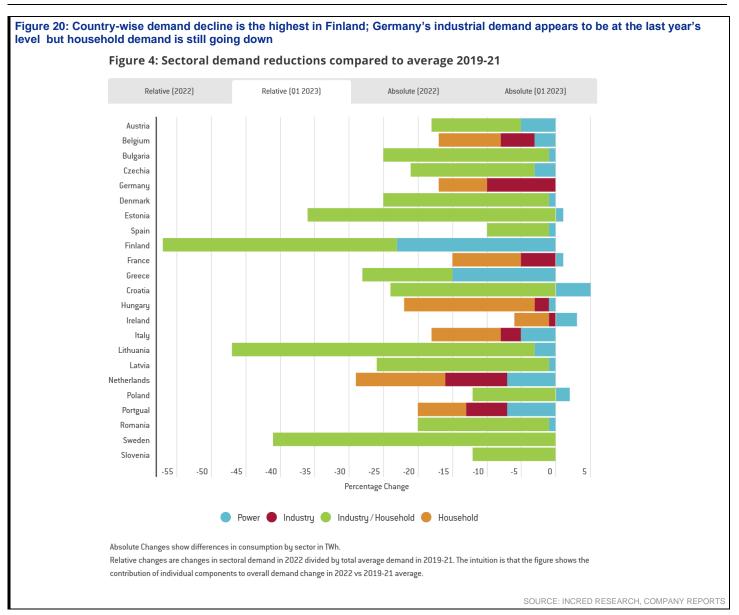
While on a yearly basis European coal demand didn't increase much, the panic that was created after the Russian invasion of Ukraine led to panic-stocking of coal by the EU (particularly, Germany) which led to sky-high prices. Most European consumers were buying high-quality South African coal, which led to sky-high prices, but they have tapered down a lot.

Please note that European gas storage is filled to the highest level at this time of the season and incremental consumption of imported gas is also going down ➤

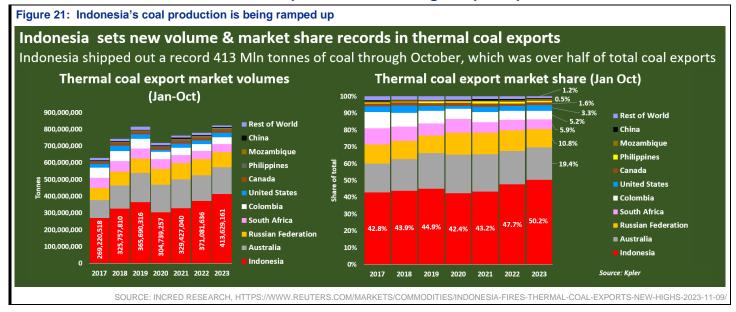


Europe has managed to cut its gas consumption significantly, which reduces the requirement of coal for power generation >

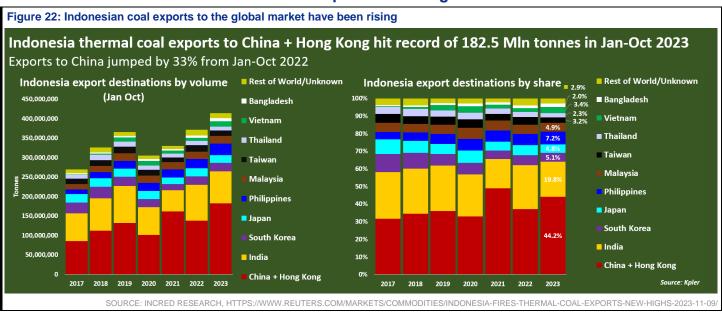




Coal production is being ramped up in Indonesia... >



...and its exports are rising >

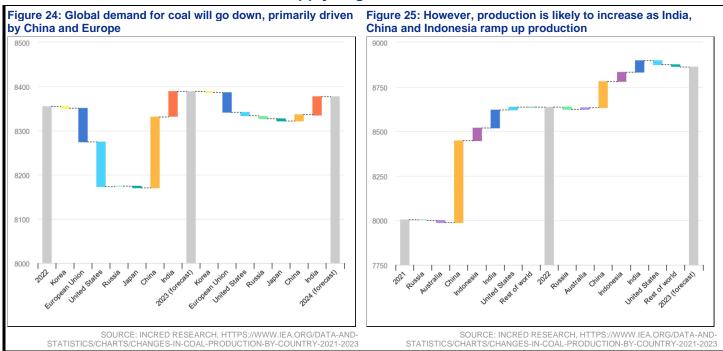


China has been buying low-grade Indonesian coal in big quantities vis-à-vis last year ➤



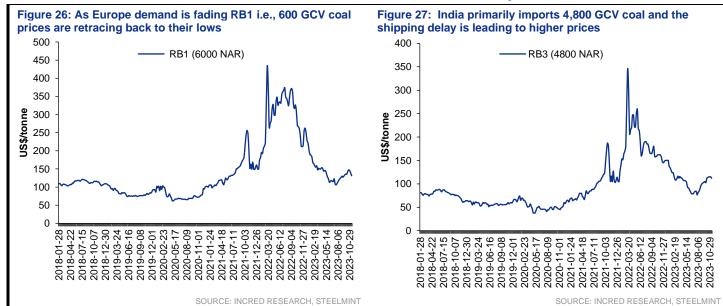
Normally, in the winter season, low-grade coal purchases by China decline and ergo, the prices go down≫

The winter season is pollution time and China must cut down the usage of heavypolluting fuels. The 4,200 GCV Indonesian coal is of heavy pollution variety and therefore its consumption is curtailed during this period. Naturally, it leads to a fall in prices of the commodity (please see Fig.23).



International Energy Agency or IEA is projecting a big oversupply of global coal ➤

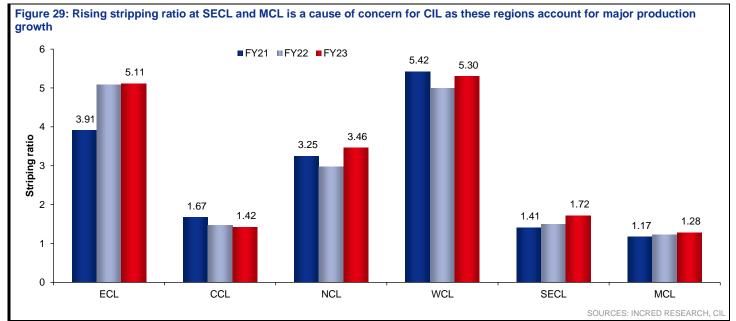
Shipping bottlenecks can keep South African coal prices high but Indonesian coal has an entirely different market ➤



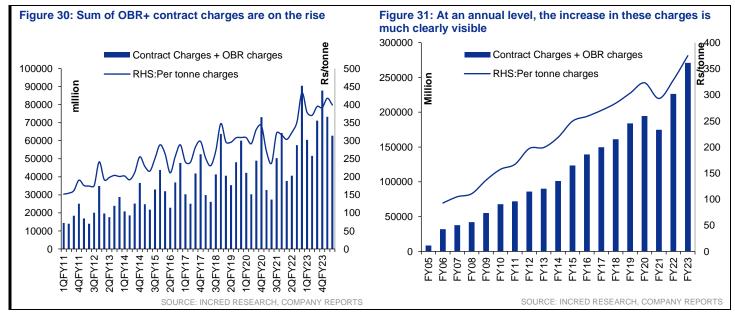
Congestion Port Display Name	Congestion Port Country	Current Max Congestion Delay (Days)	Current Median Congestion Delay (Days)	Monthly Max Congestion Delay (Days)	Monthly Median Congestion Delay (Days)	Congestion date dd
New York, USA, USNYC	USA	25	2.18	25	2.45	13/11/2023
Los Angeles, USA, USLAX	USA	21	1.54	21	1.54	13/11/2023
Shanghai, Shanghai, China, CNSHA	China	9.32	1.23	13.06	1.01	13/11/2023
Long Beach, USA, USLGB	USA	65.93	1.04	65.93	2.87	13/11/2023
Singapore, Singapore, SGSIN	Singapore	11.67	1.01	35.24	0.89	13/11/2023
Mundra, India, INMUN	India	40	1	40	1	13/11/2023
Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates, AEJEA	United Arab Emirates	19	0.93	26.78	1	13/11/2023
Ningbo, China, CNNGB	China	24	1.49	40	1.19	13/11/2023
Rotterdam, Netherlands, NLRTM	Netherlands	11.42	2.83	12.51	1.42	13/11/2023
Guangzhou, Guangzhou, China, CNCAN	China			8.95	0.99	13/11/2023

P&L line items in CIL- staff cost will rise and OBR+ contractual charges will also rise

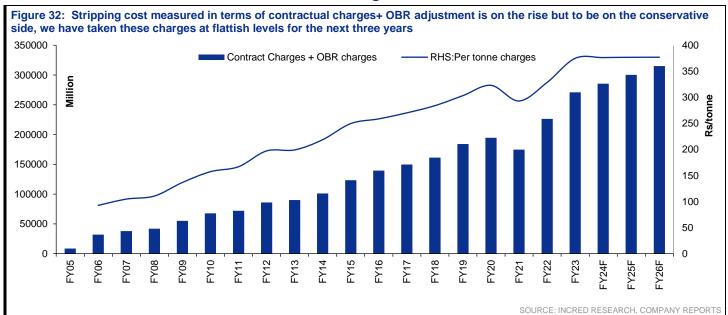
The stripping ratio is rising across the coal mines of CIL >



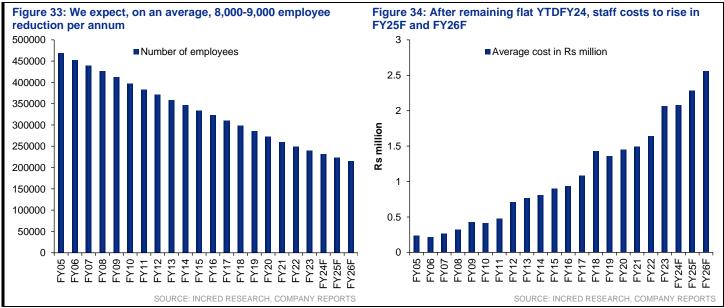
Consequently, the sum of OBR surcharge+ contractual charges will increase ➤



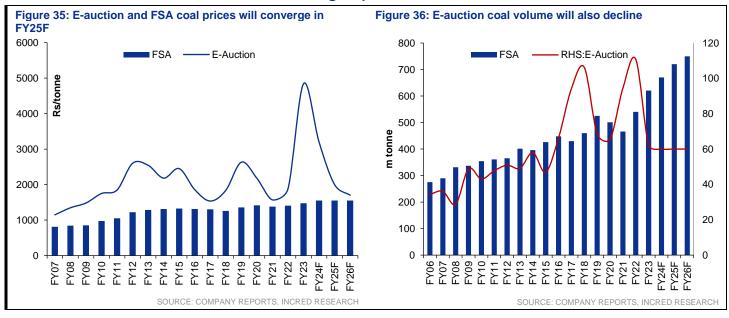
However, we are not building in a big increase in OBR+ contractual charges >



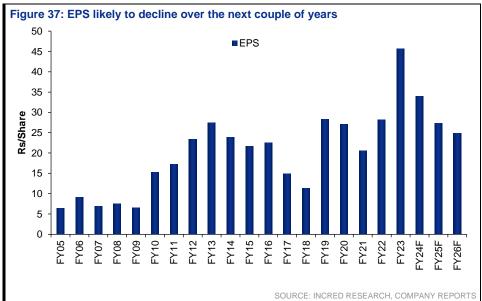
But staff cost increase is inevitable - it has always happened and in public sector undertakings or PSUs we expect the reduction to be myopic ➤



E-auction prices to fall in FY25F & FY26F while FSA sales volume to go up >



After peaking in FY23, EPS is likely to decline over the next couple of years >

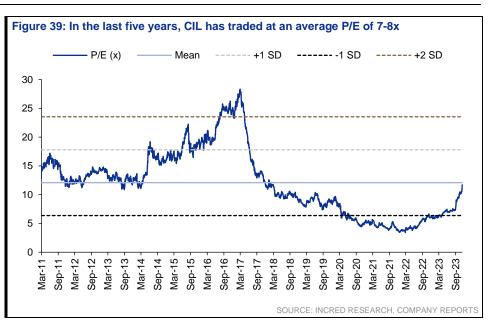


We value CIL at 8x one-year forward EPS to arrive at our target price of Rs209 ➤

Figure 38: We value CIL at 8x one-year forward P/E to arrive at our 12-month target price of Rs209

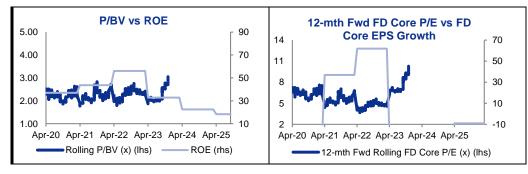
	Value	Unit
FY25F EPS	24.89	Rs/share
FY26F EPS	27.36	Rs/share
Sep-2025F EPS	26.13	
P/E multiple	8	x
Target price	209	Rs/share
	SOURCE: INCRED RESEAR	CH, COMPANY REPORTS

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BY THE NUMBERS



Profit & Loss

(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Total Net Revenues	1,097,135	1,382,519	1,380,615	1,389,716	1,422,923
Gross Profit	978,593	1,249,033	1,224,709	1,210,425	1,229,079
Operating EBITDA	246,905	368,179	284,078	228,748	203,022
Depreciation And Amortisation	(44,287)	(46,753)	(56,057)	(59,522)	(65,806)
Operating EBIT	202,618	321,426	228,020	169,226	137,215
Financial Income/(Expense)	(5,415)	(6,843)	(6,739)	(11,860)	(11,860)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	(86)	(81)			
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	39,045	65,507	61,868	70,458	81,908
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	236,163	380,008	283,149	227,824	207,263
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	236,163	380,008	283,149	227,824	207,263
Taxation	(62,379)	(98,759)	(73,571)	(59,196)	(53,853)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	173,784	281,249	209,578	168,629	153,410
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	173,784	281,249	209,578	168,629	153,410
Recurring Net Profit	173,784	281,249	209,578	168,629	153,410
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	173,784	281,249	209,578	168,629	153,410

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
EBITDA	246,905	368,179	284,078	228,748	203,022
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	174,479	27,977	(145,686)	40,457	8,556
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	(25,013)	(79,713)	5,745	(90,189)	(81,057)
Other Operating Cashflow	82,759	116,116	121,891	138,624	152,919
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(5,415)	(6,843)	(6,739)	(11,860)	(11,860)
Tax Paid	(62,840)	(98,759)	(73,571)	(59,196)	(53,853)
Cashflow From Operations	410,875	326,957	185,717	246,585	217,726
Capex	(120,232)	(146,841)	(27,161)	(100,000)	(90,000)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments	(156,028)	25,670	51,665		
Other Investing Cashflow	11,450	40,743	48,392	56,919	68,101
Cash Flow From Investing	(264,810)	(80,428)	72,896	(43,081)	(21,899)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	(25,732)	8,050	23,190		
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares					
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(107,834)	(77,034)	(77,034)	(77,034)	(77,034)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(847)	(6,843)	(6,739)	(11,860)	(11,860)
Cash Flow From Financing	(134,412)	(75,828)	(60,583)	(88,894)	(88,894)
Total Cash Generated	11,652	170,702	198,031	114,609	106,933
Free Cashflow To Equity	120,333	254,579	281,804	203,503	195,827
Free Cashflow To Firm	151,480	253,373	265,353	215,363	207,687

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Total Cash And Equivalents	364,589	439,759	598,246	712,855	819,789
Total Debtors	113,677	130,605	170,213	171,335	175,429
Inventories	70,757	81,547	83,215	83,764	85,765
Total Other Current Assets	379,407	428,917	343,434	343,647	344,016
Total Current Assets	928,430	1,080,827	1,195,108	1,311,601	1,424,998
Fixed Assets	595,741	695,829	666,933	707,411	731,605
Total Investments	24,270	30,854	18,732	18,732	18,732
Intangible Assets					
Total Other Non-Current Assets	253,993	304,557	231,414	257,842	263,725
Total Non-current Assets	874,004	1,031,240	917,079	983,985	1,014,062
Short-term Debt	80	85	44,326	44,326	44,326
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	85,918	85,492	117,885	118,662	121,497
Other Current Liabilities	496,139	601,770	379,484	421,049	433,233
Total Current Liabilities	582,137	687,346	541,695	584,036	599,056
Total Long-term Debt	33,018	41,063	20,012	20,012	20,012
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	89,670	101,916	67,869	67,869	67,869
Total Non-current Liabilities	122,688	142,978	87,880	87,880	87,880
Total Provisions	659,440	701,586	769,911	819,375	871,453
Total Liabilities	1,364,265	1,531,911	1,399,487	1,491,292	1,558,389
Shareholders Equity	431,430	572,449	704,993	796,588	872,964
Minority Interests	6,738	7,707	7,707	7,707	7,707
Total Equity	438,168	580,156	712,700	804,295	880,671
Key Ratios					
-	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Revenue Growth	21.9%	26.0%	(0.1%)	0.7%	2.4%
Operating EBITDA Growth	32.9%	49.1%	(22.8%)	(19.5%)	(11.2%)
Operating EBITDA Margin	22.5%	26.6%	20.6%	16.5%	14.3%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	53.79	64.68	86.64	105.23	122.58
BVPS (Rs)	70.01	92.89	114.40	129.26	141.65
Gross Interest Cover	37.42	46.97	33.83	14.27	11.57
Effective Tax Rate	26.4%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	44.3%	27.4%	36.8%	45.7%	50.2%
Accounts Receivables Days	51.55	32.25	39.76	44.85	44.47
Inventory Days	246.68	208.23	192.87	169.97	159.61
Accounts Payables Days	249.86	234.35	238.07	240.78	226.11
ROIC (%)	16.6%	28.6%	17.7%	12.6%	9.9%
ROCE (%)	45.0%	58.1%	32.3%	20.6%	15.1%
Return On Average Assets	10.4%	14.6%	10.2%	8.0%	6.9%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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