

Graphite India (GRIL IN)

Rating: Not Rated | CMP: Rs546 | TP: NA

December 16, 2025

Management Meet Update

Key Financials - Consolidated

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Y/e Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Sales (Rs. m)	30,265	31,809	29,497	25,600
EBITDA (Rs. m)	4,746	3,122	-1,441	2,534
Margin (%)	15.7	9.8	(4.9)	9.9
PAT (Rs. m)	5,046	1,994	8,081	4,621
EPS (Rs.)	25.8	10.2	41.4	23.7
Gr. (%)	NA	-60.5	305.9	-42.8
DPS (Rs.)	10.0	8.5	11.0	11.0
Yield (%)	1.8	1.6	2.0	2.0
RoE (%)	10.6	4.0	15.3	8.1
RoCE (%)	13.2	5.2	18.8	9.7
EV/Sales (x)	2.6	2.5	2.7	3.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.7	25.4	(55.0)	31.3
PE (x)	21.2	53.6	13.2	23.1
P/BV (x)	2.16	2.2	1.9	1.8

Key Data GRPH.BO | GRIL IN 52-W High / Low Rs.652 / Rs.366

52-W High / Low	Rs.652 / Rs.366
Sensex / Nifty	85,213 / 26,027
Market Cap	Rs.106.7bn/ \$ 1,176.4m
Shares Outstanding	195.4m
3M Avg. Daily Value	Rs.741.0m

Shareholding Pattern (%)

Promoter's	65.34
Foreign	6.60
Domestic Institution	9.58
Public & Others	18.48
Promoter Pledge (Rs bn)	-

Stock Performance (%)

	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	(4.4)	1.6	(2.8)
Relative	(4.9)	(2.8)	(8.3)

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Play on rising EAF steel production share

We met the management of Graphite India (GRIL) to understand the industry dynamics and the company's long-term strategy. GRIL is one of the largest graphite electrode producers in India with an installed capacity of 80ktpa. The company has a geographically well-diversified customer base, with a leading market share (50%+) in India and also exports to the rest of Asia, Europe and the US. The management highlighted that weakness in the electrode business is expected to continue through H2FY26, with improvement likely thereafter as steel demand improves. Graphite electrodes are consumables used in electric arc furnace (EAF) to melt the scrap. Global steel production via the EAF route has been growing at 2.3% CAGR over the last two decades. This share is expected to increase further as the decarbonization drive intensifies, driving demand for graphite electrodes. Chinese curtailment of steel production and improvement in developed economies' steel sector remain key monitorables for graphite electrode demand over the medium-to-long term.

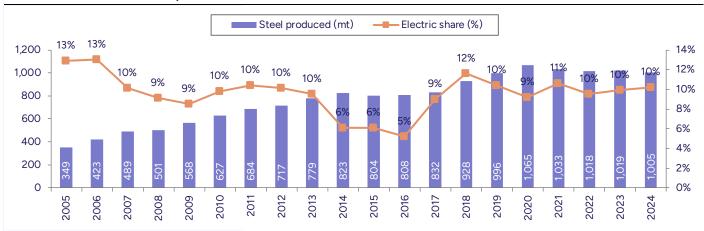
Graphite electrode industry is facing headwinds from excess capacity in the last few years, leading to weak pricing and high raw material prices, mainly of needle coke. Needle coke is sourced from refineries in the US, the UK and Japan operating sweet crude, and its demand remains strong due to its rising usage in lithium-ion battery anodes. Multiple shutdowns of electrode capacities have been reported across Europe and Japan in the last 2 years, which would drive pricing higher once global steel demand improves in 2027. With strong operational capabilities and financial discipline, GRIL is well positioned to meet the rising demand from both domestic and international customers. The stock is trading at EV of 31.3x of FY25 EBITDA. Not Rated.

- Rising share of EAF in steel production Slow but sustainable: As per the World Steel Association, global steel production via the EAF route has increased from 358mt (31.7% of total) in 2005 to 548mt (29.1%) in 2024. Over the last 2 decades, steel production via the EAF route has clocked 2.3% CAGR, while overall steel production has grown at a higher CAGR of 2.7%, suggesting higher investments in the BF-BOF route. China, which had vowed to increase EAF share to 20% from 10% over the past decade, was still producing only 10.2% of total steel via the EAF route in 2024. As Chinese government is rationalizing steel capacities and trying to control CO2 emissions over next few years, we expect focused shift to the EAF route in the country to continue.
- Electrode capacity cuts in developed countries augur well for Indian producers: Steel making in the US and Europe is mainly via the EAF route due to environmental concerns and unavailability of cheaper key raw materials for BF-BOF. As Europe implements CBAM from 2026, demand for steel produced via the EAF route is expected to increase, as it emits 75% less CO2 compared to BF-BOF. If China implements its anti-involution strategy stringently in 2026, excess electrode supplies could be curtailed. Over the last 2 years, declining electrode prices have significantly pressured cash flows and profitability for most electrode producers operating in the developed markets.

This has led to significant cut in capacities over the last few quarters, auguring well for long term pricing.

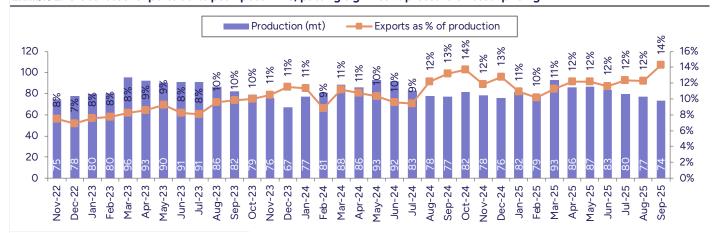
China holds the key again: Like most of the commodities, pricing in the graphite electrode pricing is significantly influenced by Chinese supply. In 2017, China cut the supplies due to anti-pollution measures and impact of Hurricane Harvey. This had a ripple effect on the global electrode market with prices nearly quadrupling by 2018. Although it is not expected to repeat, the Chinese government's efforts to rationalize old steel capacities and curtail steel production are expected to benefit the electrode industry. Even a partial reduction in its electrode exports would support global capacity utilization and pricing. The steel industry is facing a similar situation, with steel exports as a percentage of production having touched 14% in Sep'25. As domestic steel demand is expected to remain weak due to a subdued property market, curtailment of excess production or stimulus-led demand growth remains the only option for China. A phase out of old BF-BOF furnaces in China can lead to higher usage of electrodes domestically, thereby resulting in lower exports.

Exhibit 1: Share of EAF in steel production still at 10.2% in China in 2024



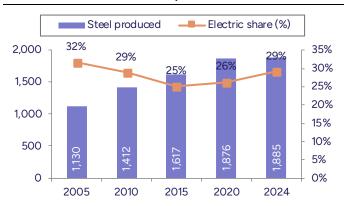
Source: Industry, PL

Exhibit 2: Global steel exports at its peak post FY16, putting significant pressure on steel pricing



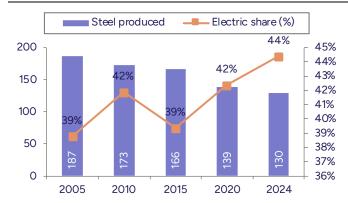
Source: Industry, PL

Exhibit 3: Share of EAF in steel production - world



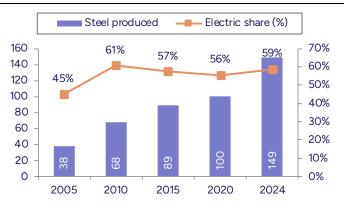
Source: Industry, PL

Exhibit 5: Share of EAF in steel production - EU



Source: Industry, PL

Exhibit 4: Share of EAF in steel production - India



Source: Industry, PL

Exhibit 6: Share of EAF in steel production - N America



Source: Industry, PL

Improvement in developed economies post ongoing trade deals

- With most of the infrastructure in the US and Europe being over 40 years old, as economies improve, spending on infrastructure is expected to improve over the long term. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates the US requires USD7-8trn in infrastructure investment by 2035 across sectors, viz., transportation, water & sewage water, energy and local facilities. This implies average annual investment need of USD700-900bn per year over the next decade to maintain, repair, modernize and expand existing economic infrastructure.
- According to a recent BCG study, Europe stands at a turning point. Europe (EU & broader region) requires ~EUR12trn in infrastructure investment by 2040, roughly EUR800bn per year (more than double the current spend rate of EUR300bn) to remain competitive, decarbonize, and modernize networks. This includes energy, transport, digital and buildings.
- Any improvement in developed economies (which looks distant currently) can aid in demand for electrodes.



Global electrode industry suffering from Chinese oversupplies

■ Graphite electrode industry is highly consolidated with top 5 global players accounting for ~75% of the high-end UHP electrode capacity. Majority of this capacity is located in high-cost regions (viz., the US, Europe and Japan). Due to the global oversupply situation led by China, most of the high-cost regional (EU, Japan, etc.) capacities have been curtailed over the past few quarters. GRIL's German unit is also closed due to unviability at current prices. Amid this situation, only Indian players have announced capex for increasing capacities in the country, where they have operating cost advantages.

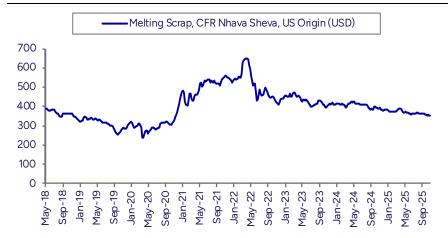
Exhibit 7: Top global players having graphite electrode capacities

Company	Capacity (ktpa)	Country
Fangda Carbon	190	China
GrafTech	178	US
Resonac	140	Japan
Tokai Carbon	98	Japan
HEG	100	India
GRIL	80	India
Planned capacities	40	India

Source: Company, PL; GRIL has planned 25ktpa capacity expansion in 2 phases

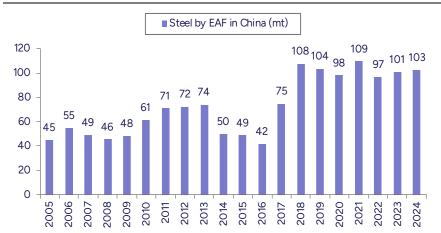
- But weak pricing power: Indian electrode market capacity stands at ~80ktpa with 2 dominant players serving the markets, along with Chinese imports. GRIL has over 50% share in the domestic market, followed by HEG at ~27%; Chinese players account for the rest. Chinese suppliers offer electrodes at significantly lower prices, as India does not levy import duties on graphite electrodes.
- Rising focus on overseas market: GRIL is expected to improve its focus on overseas markets, mainly the US and Japan, as demand in the US is expected to improve and Japan has levied ADD on Chinese imports.
- Ongoing capex: GRIL expects incremental global demand of 150-200ktpa for graphite electrodes over the next 5 years, driven by EAF capacity additions in select regions such as the US. GRIL is planning capacity expansion of 25ktpa over next 3 years in 2 phases with an investment of Rs6bn, entirely funded by internal accruals. Phase 1 is expected to get commissioned by end-FY27.
- Small share of steel's CoP: 1t of EAF steel requires 1.5-1.6kg of electrodes (depending upon age of furnace, newer being more efficient requires only 1.2kg, and older can consume ~2kg). Thus, electrodes form only 2-3% of steel CoP and can be easily passed through by EAF steel producers.
- But key raw material is in demand: 1t of UHP requires equivalent amount of needle coke, which is the primary raw material. Needle coke is obtained from refineries using sweet crude and imported mainly from the US, the UK and Japan. There are limited players and usage of needle coke has increased in lithium-ion battery anodes recently, keeping prices high. As EV batteries CoP is still evolving, the situation is expected to remain under control.

Exhibit 8: Scrap prices normalizing after sharp rise post Ukraine issue



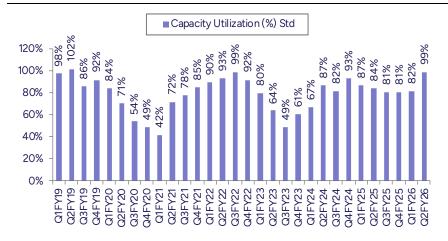
Source: Industry, PL

Exhibit 9: Steel production by EAF route in China (mt)



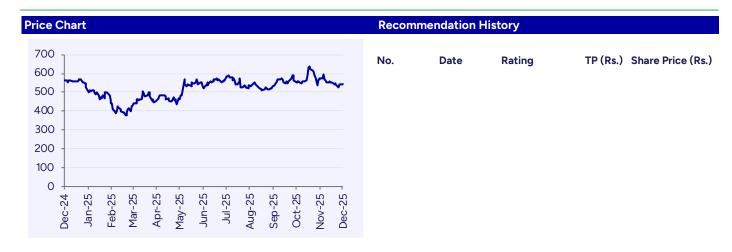
Source: Industry, PL

Exhibit 10: GRIL Capacity utilization expected to remain at 85-90%



Source: Company, PL

December 16, 2025 5



Analyst Coverage Universe

Sr. No.	Company Name	Rating	TP (Rs)	Share Price (Rs)
1	ACC	BUY	2,374	1,882
2	Adani Port & SEZ	BUY	1,777	1,444
3	Ambuja Cement	BUY	718	577
4	Dalmia Bharat	Accumulate	2,372	2,250
5	Hindalco Industries	Accumulate	846	790
6	Jindal Stainless	Hold	748	743
7	Jindal Steel	Accumulate	1,151	1,071
8	JSW Infrastructure	BUY	336	265
9	JSW Steel	Hold	1,118	1,166
10	National Aluminium Co.	BUY	281	235
11	NMDC	Accumulate	86	77
12	Nuvoco Vistas Corporation	Accumulate	459	412
13	Shree Cement	Accumulate	29,850	26,100
14	Steel Authority of India	Hold	143	137
15	Tata Steel	Accumulate	188	166
16	Ultratech Cement	Accumulate	13,425	12,370

PL's Recommendation Nomenclature (Absolute Performance)

 Buy
 : > 15%

 Accumulate
 : 5% to 15%

 Hold
 : +5% to -5%

 Reduce
 : -5% to -15%

 Sell
 : < -15%</td>

Not Rated (NR) : No specific call on the stock
Under Review (UR) : Rating likely to change shortly

December 16, 2025 6

7



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