

Financial discipline and operational foresight drive SAIL's Q1 FY27 profit surge

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SAIL's Q1 FY27 performance is not just about a sharp rise in profits y-o-y, it is about how financial acumen and operational foresight came together to deliver results. Commenting on SAIL's performance in the first quarter of the FY27, Chairman & Managing Director, Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda said, "This performance reflects the strength of SAIL's integrated strategy. Even as the global headwinds generated due to volatility in the Middle East posed challenges, we demonstrated resilience through financial prudence combined with proactive operational measures. The performance during the quarter reflected a conscious drive towards efficiency improvement. Equally important was the company's disciplined approach to cash flow management, strict financial controls and sharper working capital practices."

Going into the details on the prudent financial management strategy adopted by SAIL, he added that, "During the first quarter, the company contained borrowings and reduced the cost of borrowings through long standing financial credibility and further improvement in management of cash flows and debt. Liquidity remained strong, and both the debt-equity ratio and net debt-EBITDA profile showed marked improvement, highlighting SAIL's success in reducing debt exposure while sustaining profitability."

Q1 FY27 reflected progress in company's product mix and investment priorities. The proportion of finished steel in the total saleable steel improved to 89% in Q1 FY27 from 86% over CPLY, indicating a gradual reduction of semis in the company's overall product basket. The percentage of value-added steel dispatches also increased by 7.5% in Q1 FY27 over CPLY, reinforcing SAIL's focus on quality-driven growth. At the same time, CAPEX exceeded the target from ₹2,306 Crore to ₹2,575 Crore, highlighting the company's strong commitment to strategic investments and proactive allocation of resources towards capacity expansion and modernization.

The quarter also showcased SAIL's ability to translate strategy into operational resilience. Blast furnace productivity improved, steelmaking economics were reinforced through optimized ferro-alloys and flux consumption, and scheduled capital repairs were advanced proactively to secure stability for the coming quarters. Dr. Panda further elaborated that *"Our focus on operational foresight ensured uninterrupted performance despite supply chain disruptions. While limestone requirements were met through a balanced mix of indigenous and external sources, alternate arrangements for Propane gas safeguarded continuity."*

The focused thrust on mining operations delivered significant results by unlocking the full potential of SAIL's captive mines. Enhanced iron ore production enabled the Company to fully meet its internal raw material requirements while marketing surplus ore in the domestic market. As a result, iron ore sales during Q1FY27 registered an impressive 269% growth over the corresponding period of the previous year. This exceptional performance provided a significant boost to the Company's bottom line and underscored the strategic strength of SAIL's integrated business model, wherein value creation across the mining and steel value chain directly translates into superior operational and financial performance.

Taken together, these developments underscore how SAIL is not only delivering financial resilience but also reshaping its product portfolio and investing in future-ready infrastructure - laying the foundation for sustained competitiveness in a volatile global environment.

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