ElaraCapital

Steel Authority of India

Weak demand hurts volume

In-line revenue; EBITDA ahead of our expectations

Steel Authority of India (SAIL IN) reported a mixed Q3, with net sales broadly in line but EBITDA better-than-expected, primarily led by realization surpassing expectation and operating cost lower-thananticipated. Net sales declined ~7% YoY and ~21% QoQ to ~INR 233bn, mostly in line with our estimates of ~INR 231bn. However, EBITDA was up ~3% YoY but down ~45% QoQ to ~INR 21bn, above our estimates of ~INR 11bn. Finance cost fell ~4% YoY but rose ~1% QoQ to ~INR 6bn. Depreciation grew ~8% YoY but was flat QoQ at ~INR 13bn. Adjusted PAT was up ~9% YoY but dropped ~82% QoQ to ~INR 2.8bn.

EBITDA/tonne up ~12% YoY but down ~31% QoQ

Sales volume dropped ~8% YoY and ~20% QoQ to 3.8mn tonnes, in line with our estimates. However, this negative impact was offset by better realization and lower-than-expected operating cost. Realization was up ~2% YoY but was down ~2% QoQ to INR 61,274/tonne, ~1% above our estimates. Operating cost increased ~1% YoY and ~3% QoQ to INR 55,657/tonne, ~4% below our estimates, driven by lower power & fuel cost, employee cost and stores & spares cost. Thus, EBITDA/tonne rose ~12% YoY but fell ~31% QoQ to INR 5,617 versus INR 2,833 estimated.

Valuation: Downgrade to Sell; new TP at INR 108

Given the lag impact of high coking coal price and soft steel prices, margin may come under pressure. Furthermore, the recent suspension of key officers in the company may slow down decision making process. Absence of any major capacity addition in the next two years may result in SAIL's underperformance versus its peers on the volume front. While we largely retain FY25E-26E EBITDA estimate, we cut it ~10% for FY24E, to factor in weak volume in Q3FY24.

As we roll over to December 2025E from September 2025E, we raise our TP to INR 108 from INR 104, on 4.5x (unchanged) December 2025E EV/EBITDA. As SAIL is up ~40% since the release of our report <u>'Railway</u> arrears lift profitability', dated 17 November 2023, we revise our rating to **Sell** from Accumulate.



Target Price: INR 108

Downside: 12%

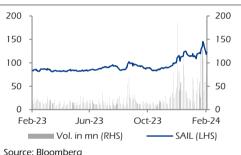
CMP: INR 123 (as on 14 February 2024)

Key data*

| Bloomberg /Reuters Code: | SAIL IN/ SAIL.BO |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Current / Dil. Shares O/S (mn) | 4,130/4,130 |
| Mkt Cap (INR bn/USD mn) | 508/6,118 |
| Daily Vol. (3M NSE Avg.) | 39,575,249 |
| Face Value (INR) | 10 |
| 1 USD = INR 83.0 | |

Note: *as on 14 February 2024; Source: Bloomberg

Price & Volume



| Shareholding (%) | Q4FY23 | Q1FY24 | Q2FY24 | Q3FY24 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Promoter | 65.0 | 65.0 | 65.0 | 65.0 |
| Institutional Investors | 17.1 | 17.5 | 18.3 | 19.8 |
| Other Investors | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.2 |
| General Public | 15.4 | 15.0 | 14.3 | 13.0 |
| Source: BSE | | | | |
| Price performance | (%) | ЗM | 6M | 12M |

| Price performance (%) | 3M | 6M | 12M |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Nifty | 12.3 | 12.4 | 21.8 |
| SAIL | 39.4 | 41.2 | 46.0 |
| Tata Steel | 16.7 | 19.5 | 29.2 |
| JSW Steel | 6.9 | 1.7 | 12.4 |
| Jindal Steel & Power | 19.1 | 14.5 | 28.6 |
| Source: Bloomberg | | | |

| YE March (INR mn) | Q3FY24 | Q3FY23 | YoY (%) | Q2FY24 | QoQ (%) | Q3FY24E | Var (%) |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Net Sale | 233,455 | 250,419 | (6.8) | 297,135 | (21.4) | 231,280 | 0.9 |
| Operating Expenses | 212,053 | 229,651 | (7.7) | 258,445 | (18.0) | 220,520 | (3.8) |
| % of Sales | 90.8 | 91.7 | | 87.0 | | 95.3 | |
| EBITDA | 21,402 | 20,768 | 3.1 | 38,690 | (44.7) | 10,760 | 98.9 |
| EBITDA Margins (%) | 9.2 | 8.3 | | 13.0 | | 4.7 | |
| Other Income | 1,785 | 1,208 | 47.9 | 1,737 | 2.8 | 4,425 | (59.7) |
| Interest | 6,139 | 6,403 | (4.1) | 6,052 | 1.4 | 5,992 | 2.5 |
| Depreciation | 13,206 | 12,210 | 8.2 | 13,263 | (0.4) | 13,330 | (0.9) |
| PBT | 4,608 | 6,347 | (27.4) | 16,962 | (72.8) | (4,136) | - |
| Тах | 1,294 | 1,712 | (24.4) | 4,555 | (71.6) | (1,034) | - |
| Effective Tax Rate(%) | 28.1 | 27.0 | | 26.9 | | 25.0 | |
| Adjusted PAT | 2,779 | 2,547 | 9.1 | 15,311 | (81.9) | (3,102) | - |
| Reported PAT | 3,314 | 4,635 | (28.5) | 12,407 | (73.3) | (3,102) | - |
| NPM (%) | 1.2 | 1.0 | | 5.2 | | (1.3) | |

| Revenue | YoY | EBITDA | EBITDA | Adj PAT | YoY | Fully DEPS | RoE | RoCE | P/BV | EV/EBITDA |
|-----------|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| (INR mn) | (%) | (INR mn) | margin (%) | (INR mn) | (%) | (INR) | (%) | (%) | (X) | (x) |
| 1,037,675 | 0.9 | 80,241 | 7.7 | 17,225 | (86.0) | 4.2 | 3.3 | 4.9 | 1.0 | 10.1 |
| 1,050,439 | 1.2 | 98,107 | 9.3 | 22,929 | 33.1 | 5.6 | 4.3 | 5.8 | 1.0 | 7.8 |
| 1,174,180 | 11.8 | 125,824 | 10.7 | 43,290 | 88.8 | 10.5 | 7.8 | 8.4 | 0.9 | 6.0 |
| 1,282,205 | 9.2 | 132,283 | 10.3 | 48,185 | 11.3 | 11.7 | 8.1 | 8.7 | 0.9 | 5.8 |
| | (INR mn) 1,037,675 1,050,439 1,174,180 | (INR mn) (%) 1,037,675 0.9 1,050,439 1.2 1,174,180 11.8 | (INR mn) (%) (INR mn) 1,037,675 0.9 80,241 1,050,439 1.2 98,107 1,174,180 11.8 125,824 | (INR mn) (%) (INR mn) margin (%) 1,037,675 0.9 80,241 7.7 1,050,439 1.2 98,107 9.3 1,174,180 11.8 125,824 10.7 | (INR mn) (%) (INR mn) margin (%) (INR mn) 1,037,675 0.9 80,241 7.7 17,225 1,050,439 1.2 98,107 9.3 22,929 1,174,180 11.8 125,824 10.7 43,290 | (INR mn) (%) (INR mn) margin (%) (INR mn) (%) 1,037,675 0.9 80,241 7.7 17,225 (86.0) 1,050,439 1.2 98,107 9.3 22,929 33.1 1,174,180 11.8 125,824 10.7 43,290 88.8 | (INR mn) (%) (INR mn) margin (%) (INR mn) (%) (INR) 1,037,675 0.9 80,241 7.7 17,225 (86.0) 4.2 1,050,439 1.2 98,107 9.3 22,929 33.1 5.6 1,174,180 11.8 125,824 10.7 43,290 88.8 10.5 | (INR mn)(%)(INR mn)margin (%)(INR mn)(%)(INR)(%)1,037,6750.980,2417.717,225(86.0)4.23.31,050,4391.298,1079.322,92933.15.64.31,174,18011.8125,82410.743,29088.810.57.8 | (INR mn) (%) (INR mn) margin (%) (INR mn) (%) (INR) (%) (%) (%) (%) 1,037,675 0.9 80,241 7.7 17,225 (86.0) 4.2 3.3 4.9 1,050,439 1.2 98,107 9.3 22,929 33.1 5.6 4.3 5.8 1,174,180 11.8 125,824 10.7 43,290 88.8 10.5 7.8 8.4 | (INR mn) (%) (INR mn) margin (%) (INR mn) (%) (INR) (%)< |

Note: pricing as on 14 February 2024; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

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Elara Securities (India) Private Limited

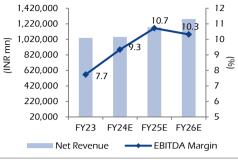
Financials (YE March)

| Financiais (TE March) | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Income Statement (INR mn) | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
| Net Revenue | 1,037,675 | 1,050,439 | 1,174,180 | |
| Operating profit | 73,442 | 93,815 | 120,261 | 125,956 |
| Add:- Other operating Income | 6,798 | 4,292 | 5,563 | 6,328 |
| EBITDA | 80,241 | 98,107 | 125,824 | 132,283 |
| Less :- Depreciation & Amortization | 49,625 | 52,489 | 54,268 | 54,898 |
| Add: Other income | 13,548 | 10,839 | 11,164 | 11,499 |
| EBIT | 44,164 | 56,458 | 82,720 | 88,884 |
| Less:- Interest Expenses | 20,375 | 24,585 | 22,737 | 22,118 |
| Add/Less: - Extra-ordinaries | 2,580 | (3,385) | - | - |
| PBT | 26,369 | 28,487 | 59,983 | 66,766 |
| Less :- Taxes | 7,338 | 7,928 | 16,693 | 18,581 |
| Reported PAT | 19,031 | 20,559 | 43,290 | 48,185 |
| Adjusted PAT | 17,225 | 22,929 | 43,290 | 48,185 |
| Balance Sheet (INR mn) | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
| Share Capital | 41,305 | 41,305 | 41,305 | 41,305 |
| Reserves | 480,086 | 497,056 | 532,085 | 569,944 |
| Borrowings | 303,989 | 274,489 | 260,489 | 259,944 |
| Other liabilities | 96,735 | 98,109 | 99,505 | 100,924 |
| Total Liabilities | 979,587 | 971,304 | | 1,038,647 |
| Gross Block | 1,269,886 | 1,284,886 | 1,299,886 | 1,314,886 |
| Less:- Accumulated Depreciation | 534,659 | 587,147 | 641,415 | 696,314 |
| Net Block | 735,227 | 697,739 | 658,470 | 618,572 |
| Add:- Capital work in progress | 48,914 | 88,914 | 133,914 | 198,914 |
| Non-current investments | 16,737 | 16,737 | 16,737 | 16,737 |
| Net Working Capital | 76,091 | 53,145 | 72,558 | 96,282 |
| Cash & current investments | 3,980 | 14,906 | 14,143 | 6,145 |
| Other assets | 98,639 | 99,864 | 100,925 | 101,998 |
| Total Assets | 979,587 | 971,304 | 996,747 | 1,038,647 |
| Cash Flow Statement (INR mn) | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
| Cash profit adjusted for non-cash items | | 89,668 | 112,148 | 116,871 |
| Add/Less : Working Capital Changes | (138,224) | 22,945 | (19,413) | (23,724) |
| Operating Cash Flow | (54,065) | 112,613 | 92,736 | 93,147 |
| Less:- Capex | (39,150) | (55,000) | (60,000) | (80,000) |
| Free Cash Flow | (93,215) | 57,613 | 32,736 | 13,147 |
| Financing Cash Flow | 85,867 | (56,301) | (43,601) | (31,571) |
| Investing Cash Flow | 6,814 | 9,614 | 10,103 | 10,426 |
| Net change in Cash | (533) | 10,927 | (763) | (7,998) |
| Ratio Analysis | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
| Income Statement Ratios (%) | | | | |
| Revenue Growth | 0.9 | 1.2 | 11.8 | 9.2 |
| EBITDA Growth | (62.4) | 22.3 | 28.3 | 5.1 |
| Adj. PAT Growth | (86.0) | 33.1 | 88.8 | 11.3 |
| EBITDA Margin | 7.7 | 9.3 | 10.7 | 10.3 |
| Adj. Net Margin | 1.7 | 2.2 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| Return & Liquidity Ratios (%) | | | | |
| Net Debt/Equity (x) | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| ROE | 3.3 | 4.3 | 7.8 | 8.1 |
| ROCE | 4.9 | 5.8 | 8.4 | 8.7 |
| Per Share data & Valuation Ratios | | | | |
| Adjusted EPS (INR) | 4.2 | 5.6 | 10.5 | 11.7 |
| EPS Growth (%) | (86.0) | 33.1 | 88.8 | 11.3 |
| DPS (INR) | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.5 |
| P/E Ratio (x) | 29.5 | 22.2 | 11.7 | 10.5 |
| EV/EBITDA (x) | 10.1 | 7.8 | 6.0 | 5.8 |
| EV/Sales (x) | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| | | | | |
| P/BV(x) | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| P/BV(x) Dividend Yield (%) | | | | |

Note: pricing as on 14 February 2024; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

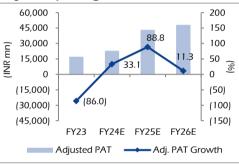






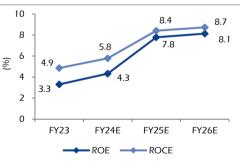
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Adjusted profit growth trend



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Return ratios



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Exhibit 1: SAIL underperforms peers on volume

| | Q3FY24 | Q3FY23 | YoY (%) | Q2FY24 | QoQ (%) |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Standalone | | | | | |
| Sales volume (mn tonnes) | 3.8 | 4.2 | (8.2) | 4.8 | (20.1) |
| Realization per tonne (INR) | 61,274 | 60,327 | 1.6 | 62,293 | (1.6) |
| EBITDA per tonne (INR) | 5,617 | 5,003 | 12.3 | 8,111 | (30.7) |

Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

Exhibit 2: Change in estimates

| (INR mn) | Previous | | | Revised | | Change (%) | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------|-------|-------|
| | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
| Revenue | 1,112,907 | 1,168,997 | 1,276,545 | 1,050,439 | 1,174,180 | 1,282,205 | (5.6) | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| EBITDA | 108,708 | 125,602 | 132,377 | 98,107 | 125,824 | 132,283 | (9.8) | 0.2 | (0.1) |
| PAT | 32,247 | 45,245 | 50,431 | 22,929 | 43,290 | 48,185 | (28.9) | (4.3) | (4.5) |
| TP (INR) | | 104 | | | 108 | | | 3.8 | |
| Rating | | Accumulate | | | Sell | | | | |

Source: Elara Securities Estimate

Coverage History



| | Date | Rating | Target Price | Closing Price |
|----|-------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | 18-Jan-2021 | Accumulate | INR 77 | INR 66 |
| 2 | 29-Jan-2021 | Buy | INR 77 | INR 58 |
| 3 | 11-Jun-2021 | Accumulate | INR 160 | INR 135 |
| 4 | 6-Aug-2021 | Accumulate | INR 169 | INR 141 |
| 5 | 29-Oct-2021 | Buy | INR 156 | INR 115 |
| 6 | 10-Feb-2022 | Buy | INR 141 | INR 103 |
| 7 | 25-May-2022 | Accumulate | INR 83 | INR 71 |
| 8 | 11-Aug-2022 | Accumulate | INR 88 | INR 79 |
| 9 | 11-Nov-2022 | Accumulate | INR 97 | INR 86 |
| 10 | 15-Feb-2023 | Accumulate | INR 100 | INR 84 |
| 11 | 26-May-2023 | Accumulate | INR 90 | INR 82 |
| 12 | 11-Aug-2023 | Accumulate | INR 104 | INR 91 |
| 13 | 14-Feb-2024 | Sell | INR 108 | INR 123 |

Guide to Research Rating

| SELL | Absolute Return < -5% |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| REDUCE | Absolute Return -5% to +5% |
| ACCUMULATE | Absolute Return +5% to +20% |
| BUY | Absolute Return >+20% |

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