

Oil & Gas

Our latest O&G updates





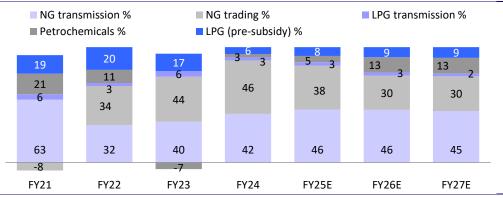
CGDs: Tax reform vital for long-term margin sustainability

- As per a recent media article, the inclusion of natural gas under the GST framework would not be on the agenda for the upcoming 55th GST Council meeting scheduled for 21st Dec'24. However, based on our interaction with GAIL, Indraprastha Gas (IGL) and Adani Total Gas recently, we believe that tax reform now is crucial for city gas distribution (CGD) companies to sustain their long-term margins and cost competitiveness and could be a key catalyst in 4QFY25-1HFY26.
- Key takeaways from the meetings are as follows: 1) gas demand remains robust and GAIL maintains its outlook of stable growth in both transmission and marketing business; 2) tax reform for CGD companies has acquired a new sense of urgency given the recent de-allocation of APM gas and the resulting adverse impact on EBITDA/scm margins; 3) if margins are not bolstered (either via price hikes or tax relief), then ultimately the network expansion is likely to suffer; 4) nearly all CGD companies we have interacted with believe staggered price hikes for CNG are inevitable without tax relief, 5) the current APM availability across companies is 38-40% for CNG and 100% for D-PNG segment.
- In the CGD sector, Mahanagar Gas remains our preferred pick given its cheaper valuation vs. IGL for a similar growth profile. We also highlight GAIL as a beneficiary of rising transmission/marketing/petchem volume growth, a potential tariff hike in 4QFY25, and a long-term value unlocking opportunity from GAIL Gas monetization.

GAIL: Robust volume growth across transmission, marketing, petchem

Potential tariff hikes of 10-12% in 4QFY25-FY26: GAIL management remains hopeful of a successful tariff-related outcome by FY25 end. We also believe the probability of gas price-related tariff hikes remains high, as PNGRB has considered a gas price of USD12.46/mmbtu for GUJS recently. We anticipate that GAIL could benefit from a 10-12% tariff increase, potentially boosting the company's FY26E PAT by 5%.

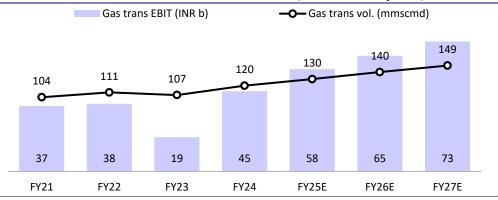
Exhibit 1: Transmission to be the major contributor to EBITDA



Source: Company, MOFSL

■ GAIL has guided for transmission volume at 130/140mmscmd for FY25/26. This does not include any benefits from the inclusion of natural gas under GST. In 3QFY25 so far, we believe transmission and marketing volumes have largely been in line with 2Q trends, though marketing profit could be under pressure due to high spot prices. In FY26-27, we believe that the refining, power, and CGD sectors will drive the majority of the 20mmscmd increase in volumes.

Exhibit 2: Transmission volumes to reach 140mmscmd/149mmscmd by FY26/FY27



Source: Company, MOFSL

- Limited direct benefit of natural gas inclusion under the GST regime: For GAIL, direct benefits from the inclusion of natural gas under the GST framework might be limited to ~INR1.5b-INR2b (as per our estimate). However, competitive natural gas pricing vs. pet coke and other dirtier fuels should boost gas consumption, and thus transmission volumes.
- Significant positive for GAIL Gas: The inclusion of natural gas under the GST framework could also be positive for GAIL Gas, for which industrial/commercial volumes account for the bulk of total volumes. Overall GAIL Gas reported FY24 volume of ~6.7mmscmd, with 61% coming from the industrial/commercial segment. We continue to believe that the monetization of CGD business is a key long-term value unlocking catalyst for GAIL.
- Pipeline completion on track: The company remains on track to commission five pipelines (capex ~INR130b by 1HFY26), which should provide medium-term volume visibility.

Tax reforms for natural gas crucial for margin stability

- Inclusion of natural gas in GST: Based on our interactions with gas utility companies, tax reform for natural gas seems to be a serious agenda for the government this time given the challenges facing the CGD sector after the recent APM de-allocation. However, as per a recent media article, the inclusion of natural gas under the GST framework would not be on the agenda for the upcoming 55th GST Council meeting scheduled for 21st Dec'24.
- Excise duty relief, even partially, can bolster margins: We understand the central government could look at removing or reducing excise duty on CNG as a way of relief for the CGD sector. We estimate a complete removal of excise duty could make CNG cheaper by INR7/scm in Delhi, and CGD companies could retain some of these benefits to bolster margins. IGL now has substantial CNG sales (up to 30%) outside Delhi; in states like UP and Rajasthan. Besides the 14% excise duty, there is VAT of 12.5%/10%. So in case of VAT removal, up to 30% of CNG sales will still benefit IGL.

■ **APM availability for CNG:** The current APM availability for companies is in the range of ~38-40% for CNG and near 100% for D-PNG. The availability of gas from new wells is not an issue for now, but we do think that a competitive long-term gas sourcing arrangement is critical for margin visibility.

- DTC bus share down to 5% now for IGL; low-margin business: The share of DTC buses in overall CNG sales for IGL is only ~5% now and IGL makes less than INR4/kg on these sales (due to discounts of up to INR4/kg).
- CNG price hikes inevitable; delaying price hikes impacts network rollout: Nearly all companies we met expressed an intent to hike prices and substantially offset the impact of the APM de-allocation. CGD players believe that the recent APM de-allocation-related issues, if not resolved, could ultimately lead to a slower expansion of CNG and D-PNG network over time.

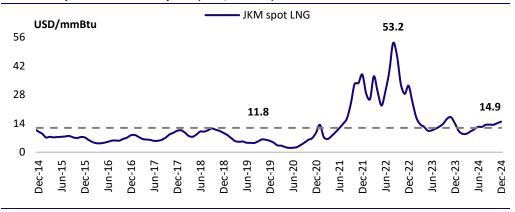
Valuation and view:

- **GAIL:** We reiterate our **BUY rating** on GAIL with a **TP of INR265**. During FY24-27, we estimate a 14% CAGR in PAT driven by:
- An increase in natural gas transmission volumes to 149mmscmd in FY27 from 120mmscmd in FY24;
- > Substantial improvement in petchem segment's profitability over 2HFY25-FY27 as the new petchem capacity will be operational and spreads are bottoming out;
- > The trading segment's healthy profitability with guided EBIT of at least INR45b accompanied by volume growth.
- Our SoTP-based TP includes:
- > The gas transmission business at 9x FY27E EBITDA of INR93b,
- LPG transmission business at 8x FY27E EBITDA of INR5b,
- Gas trading business at 6x FY27E EBITDA of INR62b,
- Petrochemical business at 7x FY27E EBITDA of INR28b, and
- > LPG business at 6x FY27E EBITDA of INR19b.
- Adding the value of listed and unlisted investments of INR272b and adjusting FY27E ND of INR151b, we arrive at our revised TP of INR265.
- MAHGL: After the twin APM de-allocation, we estimate an INR3.1/scm adverse impact on EBITDA margins without any price hikes. We also believe that a price hike of ~INR5.5-INR6/kg in CNG will be required to offset the impact of APM deallocations. While an INR2/kg CNG price hike taken by MAHGL recently (media article) shall partially reduce the adverse impact on margins, we cut our EBITDA/scm margin, leading to a reduction of 10%/11%/11% in FY25E/FY26E/FY27E EPS. Further, if margins are not bolstered (either via price hikes or tax relief), then ultimately the network expansion is likely to suffer. Hence, we reduce our valuation multiple to 15x P/E vs. 16x P/E earlier.
- We expect a 9% CAGR in volume over FY24-27E, driven by multiple initiatives implemented by the company, such as partnering with OEMs to drive conversions of commercial CNG vehicles and providing guaranteed price discounts to new I/C-PNG customers.
- The stock trades at 12x FY26E EPS of INR105. We value it at 15x Dec'26E EPS to arrive at our TP of INR1,750. Reiterate BUY.

Exhibit 3: GAIL EV/EBITDA based SoTP valuation

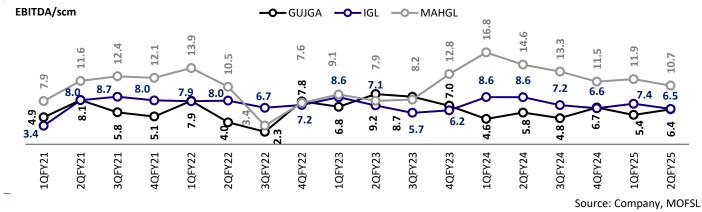
Business	EBITDA (INR b)	Target multiple (x)	Value (INRb)
Gas transmission	93	9	880
LPG transmission	5	8	41
Gas trading	62	6	391
Petrochemicals	28	7	196
LPG	19	6	115
Investments			272
Enterprise value			1,895
Net Debt			151
Implied Equity value			1,744
Value (INR/sh)			265

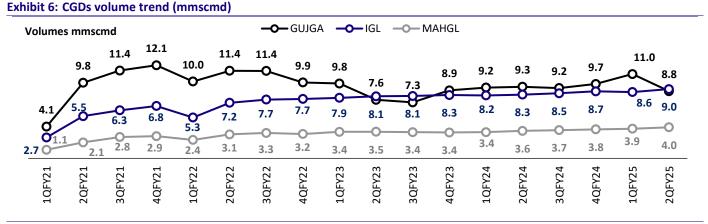
Exhibit 4: Spot LNG historical price (USD/mmbtu)



Source: Reuters, MOFSL

Exhibit 5: CGDs EBITDA margin trend (INR/scm)





Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 7: GAILs one year forward P/E

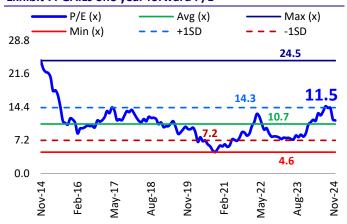
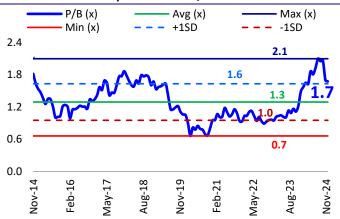


Exhibit 8: GAILs one year forward P/B



Source: Company, MOFSL

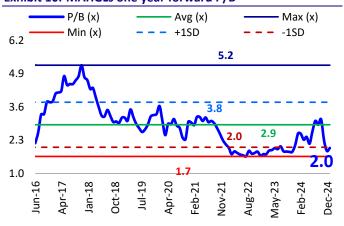
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 9: MAHGLs one year forward P/E



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 10: MAHGLs one year forward P/B



Source: Company, MOFSL

Financials and valuations: GAIL (TP: INR265) BUY

Income Statement					(INR b)
Y/E March	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	1,443.0	1,306.4	1,390.2	1,413.2	1,523.8
Change (%)	57.5	-9.5	6.4	1.7	7.8
EBITDA	67.0	134.8	151.3	169.2	191.7
% of Net Sales	4.6	10.3	10.9	12.0	12.6
Depreciation	24.9	33.3	35.2	37.2	39.3
Interest	3.1	7.0	6.3	6.4	7.1
Other Income	26.8	22.8	24.4	26.1	27.9
EO Items (net)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PBT	65.8	117.3	134.2	151.7	173.3
Tax	12.8	27.2	29.8	33.6	38.4
Rate (%)	19.5	23.2	22.2	22.2	22.2
Reported PAT	53.0	90.2	104.4	118.0	134.9
Adjusted PAT	53.0	90.2	104.4	118.0	134.9
Change (%)	-48.8	70.1	15.8	13.1	14.2
Balance Sheet					(INR b)
Y/E March	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Share Capital	65.8	65.8	65.8	65.8	65.8
Reserves	490.8	576.0	638.6	709.3	790.1
Net Worth	556.5	641.8	704.3	775.0	855.8
Loans	143.1	164.1	197.0	216.7	238.3
Deferred Tax	46.6	49.6	49.6	49.6	49.6
Capital Employed	746.3	855.5	950.8	1,041.2	1,143.7
Gross Fixed Assets	703.4	767.8	981.6	1,071.6	1,161.6
Less: Depreciation	280.7	314.0	349.1	386.3	425.6
Net Fixed Assets	422.7	453.8	632.4	685.3	736.0
Capital WIP	136.6	158.6	44.8	44.8	44.8
Investments	148.3	210.9	210.9	210.9	210.9
Current Assets					
Inventory	52.8	52.9	56.3	57.2	61.7
Debtors	114.1	106.5	113.4	115.2	124.3
Cash & Bank Balance	4.0	7.0	41.4	80.1	136.9
Cash	1.7	5.9	40.3	78.9	135.7
Bank Balance	2.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Loans/Adv. & Other Assets	82.8	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5
Current Liab. & Prov.					
Liabilities	198.1	219.8	233.9	237.8	256.4
Provisions	16.9	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Net Current Assets	38.7	32.2	62.7	100.2	152.0
Application of Funds	746.3	855.5	950.8	1,041.2	1,143.7

Financials and valuations: GAIL

Ratios					
Y/E March	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Basic (INR)					
EPS	8.1	13.7	15.9	18.0	20.5
Cash EPS	11.8	18.8	21.2	23.6	26.5
Book Value	93.5	101.8	111.3	122.0	134.3
DPS	4.0	5.5	6.4	7.2	8.2
Payout (incl. dvd tax)	49.6	40.1	40.1	40.1	40.1
Valuation (x)					
P/E	24.3	14.3	12.3	10.9	9.6
Adj. P/E (for investments)	19.3	11.4	9.8	8.7	7.6
Cash P/E	16.5	10.4	9.2	8.3	7.4
EV / EBITDA	14.0	8.3	7.3	6.3	5.4
EV / Sales	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8
Price / Book Value	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5
Dividend Yield (%)	2.0	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.2
Profitability Ratios (%)					
RoE	9.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5
RoCE	7.9	11.9	12.1	12.4	12.8
RoIC	8.1	16.7	16.0	15.1	16.3
Turnover Ratios					
Debtors (No. of Days)	29	30	30	30	30
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3
Leverage Ratio					
Net Debt / Equity (x)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Cash Flow Statement					(INR b)
Y/E March	FY22	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	65.8	115.5	134.2	151.7	173.3
Depreciation	24.9	33.3	35.2	37.2	39.3
Interest charge	3.1	7.0	6.3	6.4	7.1
Tax paid	-15.2	-27.5	-29.8	-33.6	-38.4
(Inc)/Dec in Wkg. Capital	-30.9	5.5	3.9	1.1	5.1
CF from Op. Activity	28.1	118.5	149.8	162.7	186.3
(Inc)/Dec in FA & CWIP	-73.4	-70.4	-100.0	-90.0	-90.0
Free Cash Flow	-45.3	48.1	49.8	72.7	96.3
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	-10.6	-9.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
CF from Inv. Activity	-65.5	-80.0	-100.0	-90.0	-90.0
Interest charge	-5.8	-10.9	-6.3	-6.4	-7.1
Inc / (Dec) in Debt	79.6	21.0	32.8	19.7	21.7
Dividends Paid	-30.7	-36.2	-41.9	-47.3	-54.1
CF from Fin. Activity	25.5	-34.3	-15.4	-34.1	-39.5
Inc / (Dec) in Cash	-11.9	4.1	34.4	38.6	56.8
Add: Opening Balance	13.7	1.7	5.9	40.3	78.9
Closing Balance	1.7	5.9	40.3	78.9	135.7

Financials and valuations: MAHGL (TP: INR1750) BUY

				(INR m
	FY24		FY26E	FY27E
62,993	62,445	57,604	60,465	64,823
76.9	-0.9	-7.8	5.0	7.2
11,842	18,426	14,965	16,070	17,195
18.8	29.5	26.0	26.6	26.5
2,311	2,631	2,966	3,415	3,949
9,531	15,795	11,999	12,656	13,246
94	110	329	667	667
1,119	1,822	1,406	1,379	1,401
10,555	17,507	13,076	13,368	13,980
10,555	17,507	13,076	13,368	13,980
2,655	4,437	3,291	3,365	3,519
25.2	25.3	25.2	25.2	25.2
7,901	13,070	9,785	10,003	10,462
7,901		9,785	10,003	10,462
32.3	65.4	-25.1	2.2	4.6
12.5	20.9	17.0	16.5	16.1
				(INR m)
FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
988	988	988	988	988
40,354	50,441	56,312	62,314	68,591
41,342	51,429	57,300		69,579
208	231	1,231	•	1,231
2,086	2,441	•	•	2,441
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Financials and valuations: MAHGL

Ratios					
Y/E March	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Basic (INR)					
EPS	80.0	132.3	99.1	101.3	105.9
Cash EPS	103.4	159.0	129.1	135.8	145.9
BV/Share	418.5	520.6	580.1	640.8	704.4
DPS	26.0	52.9	39.6	40.5	42.4
Payout (%)	32.5	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
Valuation (x)					
P/E	15.8	9.6	12.8	12.5	11.9
Cash P/E	12.2	8.0	9.8	9.3	8.7
P/BV	3.0	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.8
EV/Sales	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.9
EV/EBITDA	10.4	6.6	8.2	7.6	7.1
Dividend Yield (%)	2.1	4.2	3.1	3.2	3.3
FCF per share	26.0	80.2	13.5	31.2	43.4
Return Ratios (%)					
RoE	20.4	28.2	18.0	16.6	15.7
RoCE	20.5	28.2	18.2	17.0	16.1
RoIC	37.9	50.0	29.4	24.9	22.6
Working Capital Ratios					
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8
Asset Turnover (x)	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9
Inventory (Days)	2	2	2	2	2
Debtor (Days)	17	16	17	17	17
Creditor (Days)	19	20	17	17	17
Leverage Ratio (x)					
Current Ratio	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Net Debt/Equity	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Standalone - Cash Flow Statement					(INR m)
Y/E March	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	10,555	17,328	13,076	13,368	13,980
Depreciation	2,311	2,736	2,966	3,415	3,949
Direct Taxes Paid	-2,638	-4,240	-3,291	-3,365	-3,519
(Inc)/Dec in WC	134	907	-1,342	381	611
Others	-764	-1,215	-1,406	-1,379	-1,401
CF from Operations	9,693	15,631	10,332	13,086	14,288
(Inc)/Dec in FA	-7,127	-7,709	-9,000	-10,000	-10,000
Free Cash Flow	2,566	7,922	1,332	3,086	4,288
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	-1,748	-65,334	0	0	0
Others	2,384	60,375	1,406	1,379	1,401
CF from Investments	-6,491	-12,668	-7,594	-8,621	-8,599
Dividend Paid	-2,518	-2,766	-3,914	-4,001	-4,185
CF from Fin. Activity	-2,848	-3,116	-3,243	-4,168	-5,351
Inc/Dec of Cash	354	-152	-505	297	338
Opening Balance	825	1,179	1,027	522	820
Closing Balance	1,179	1,027	522	820	1,157

Investment in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing.

NOTES

Explanation of Investment Rating	
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)
BUY	>=15%
SELL	< - 10%
NEUTRAL	> - 10 % to 15%
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation

*In case the recommendation given by the Research Analyst is inconsistent with the investment rating legend for a continuous period of 30 days, the Research Analyst shall within following 30 days take appropriate measures to make the recommendation consistent with the investment rating legend.

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