

August 12, 2022

## Improved APM allocation to boost CGD sector...

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has made an amendment to its earlier order regarding APM allocation to priority sector i.e. CNG and domestic PNG segment. Currently, city gas distribution (CGD) companies receive pooled gas by Gail India in order to cater to shortfall in domestic gas supply. With the new order, higher supply of domestic gas will be allocated to priority sector from August 16. Media reports indicate that currently ~85% of priority sector requirement is fulfilled by domestic gas while LNG is procured for the remaining supply requirement. The government is likely to increase the domestic gas supply to 94% of priority sector requirement as per media reports. This will benefit CGD companies, mainly Indraprastha Gas (IGL) and Mahanagar Gas (MGL). IGL and MGL have higher proportion of priority sector volume while cost benefit for Gujarat Gas will be relatively lower given higher contribution of industrial segment in sales mix.

### Priority segment to benefit

- The government is expected to divert domestic gas supply from petrochemical & other industrial customers towards the CGD sector
- This will benefit CGD companies as gas sourcing costs will be lower. If the companies pass on cost benefit to customers, it will increase competitive advantage of CNG against traditional fuels

### Valuation and Outlook

With the government planning to increase the domestic gas allocation for priority sector, IGL and MGL will benefit significantly, as they have a higher proportion of CNG and domestic PNG in the sales mix. Gujarat Gas, due to lower contribution of priority segment in sales mix, will see relatively less benefit.

However, taking into account current volatility in global LNG prices and revision of domestic gas prices from October onwards, we retain our **HOLD** rating on CGD companies. For IGL, we value the company at ₹ 455 i.e. ₹ 423/share of standalone business and value of investment at ₹ 32/share with a **HOLD** rating. We value MGL at ₹ 940 at ~11x P/E on FY23E EPS. For Gujarat Gas, we assign **HOLD** rating valuing the company at ₹ 500 i.e. ~23x P/E on FY24E EPS.

#### Key risks

- (i) Faster than expected volume growth
- (ii) Lower than expected gross margins

#### Research Analyst

Harshal Mehta  
harshal.mehta@icicisecurities.com

Amogh Deshpande  
amogh.deshpande@icicisecurities.com

Exhibit 1: Rating matrix

Company	Rationale	CMP	Target Price	Upside	Rating
Indraprastha Gas	With allocation of domestic gas increasing and decline in gas sourcing cost, IGL will be benefitted significantly as the proportion of CNG & domestic PNG volume is relatively high at 80%	408	455	12%	HOLD
Mahanagar Gas	MGL will be benefitted the most with domestic gas allocation increasing and gas sourcing costs coming down as their margins will improve due to proportion of CNG & domestic PNG volume being the highest among its peers at 86%	861	940	9%	HOLD
Gujarat Gas	Gujarat Gas will be benefitted relatively lower, as it has a lower proportion of CNG & domestic PNG volume at 25%	464	500	8%	HOLD

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 1: Segmental volume break-up

Company	CNG	Domestic PNG	Industrial / Commercial PNG	Total	CNG & domestic PNG proportion (%)
Indraprastha Gas	5.1	0.5	1.4	7.0	80%
Mahanagar Gas	2.1	0.5	0.4	3.0	86%
Gujarat Gas	2.0	0.7	8.0	10.7	25%

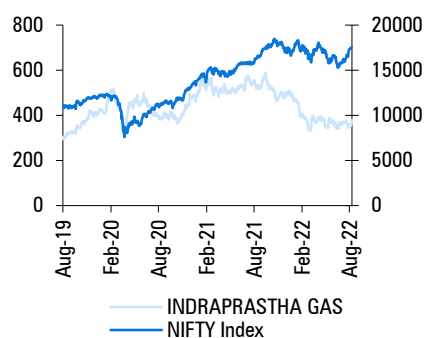
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 2: Sector-wise natural gas consumption in June 2022

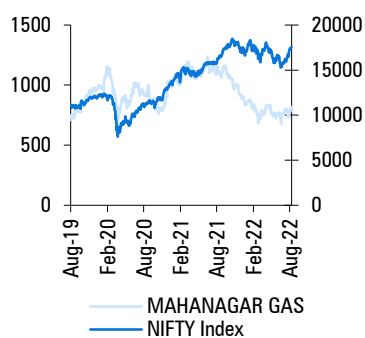
	Fertilizer	CGD	Power	Refinery	Petchem	Others
R-LNG	37	14	6	8	2	8
Domestic	16	22	14	5	1	23

Source: PPAC, ICICI Direct Research

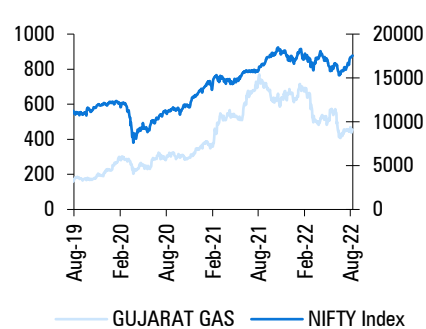
Price Chart (Indraprastha Gas)



Price Chart (Mahanagar Gas)



Price Chart (Gujarat Gas)



## RATING RATIONALE

ICICI Direct endeavors to provide objective opinions and recommendations. ICICI Direct assigns ratings to its stocks according to their notional target price vs. current market price and then categorizes them as Buy, Hold, Reduce and Sell. The performance horizon is two years unless specified and the notional target price is defined as the analysts' valuation for a stock

Buy: > 15%

Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: < -15%



**Pankaj Pandey**

**Head – Research**

**pankaj.pandey@icicisecurities.com**

**ICICI Direct Research Desk,  
ICICI Securities Limited,  
1st Floor, Akruiti Trade Centre,  
Road No 7, MIDC,  
Andheri (East)  
Mumbai – 400 093  
research@icicidirect.com**

## ANALYST CERTIFICATION

I/We, Harshal Mehta, MTech (Biotech), Amogh Deshpande, PGDM, Research Analysts, authors and the names subscribed to this report, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect our views about the subject issuer(s) or securities. We also certify that no part of our compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation(s) or view(s) in this report. It is also confirmed that above mentioned Analysts of this report have not received any compensation from the companies mentioned in the report in the preceding twelve months and do not serve as an officer, director or employee of the companies mentioned in the report.

## Terms & conditions and other disclosures:

ICICI Securities Limited (ICICI Securities) is a full-service, integrated investment banking and is, inter alia, engaged in the business of stock brokering and distribution of financial products.

ICICI Securities is Sebi registered stock broker, merchant banker, investment adviser, portfolio manager and Research Analyst. ICICI Securities is registered with Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India Limited (IRDAI) as a composite corporate agent and with PFRDA as a Point of Presence. ICICI Securities Limited Research Analyst SEBI Registration Number – INH000000990. ICICI Securities Limited SEBI Registration is INZ000183631 for stock broker. ICICI Securities is a subsidiary of ICICI Bank which is India's largest private sector bank and has its various subsidiaries engaged in businesses of housing finance, asset management, life insurance, general insurance, venture capital fund management, etc. ("associates"), the details in respect of which are available on [www.icicibank.com](http://www.icicibank.com).

ICICI Securities is one of the leading merchant bankers/ underwriters of securities and participate in virtually all securities trading markets in India. We and our associates might have investment banking and other business relationship with a significant percentage of companies covered by our Investment Research Department. ICICI Securities and its analysts, persons reporting to analysts and their relatives are generally prohibited from maintaining a financial interest in the securities or derivatives of any companies that the analysts cover.

Recommendation in reports based on technical and derivative analysis centre on studying charts of a stock's price movement, outstanding positions, trading volume etc as opposed to focusing on a company's fundamentals and, as such, may not match with the recommendation in fundamental reports. Investors may visit [icicidirect.com](http://icicidirect.com) to view the Fundamental and Technical Research Reports.

Our proprietary trading and investment businesses may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the recommendations expressed herein.

ICICI Securities Limited has two independent equity research groups: Institutional Research and Retail Research. This report has been prepared by the Retail Research. The views and opinions expressed in this document may or may not match or may be contrary with the views, estimates, rating, and target price of the Institutional Research.

The information and opinions in this report have been prepared by ICICI Securities and are subject to change without any notice. The report and information contained herein is strictly confidential and meant solely for the selected recipient and may not be altered in any way, transmitted to, copied or distributed, in part or in whole, to any other person or to the media or reproduced in any form, without prior written consent of ICICI Securities. While we would endeavour to update the information herein on a reasonable basis, ICICI Securities is under no obligation to update or keep the information current. Also, there may be regulatory, compliance or other reasons that may prevent ICICI Securities from doing so. Non-rated securities indicate that rating on a particular security has been suspended temporarily and such suspension is in compliance with applicable regulations and/or ICICI Securities policies, in circumstances where ICICI Securities might be acting in an advisory capacity to this company, or in certain other circumstances.

This report is based on information obtained from public sources and sources believed to be reliable, but no independent verification has been made nor is its accuracy or completeness guaranteed. This report and information herein is solely for informational purpose and shall not be used or considered as an offer document or solicitation of offer to buy or sell or subscribe for securities or other financial instruments. Though disseminated to all the customers simultaneously, not all customers may receive this report at the same time. ICICI Securities will not treat recipients as customers by virtue of their receiving this report. Nothing in this report constitutes investment, legal, accounting and tax advice or a representation that any investment or strategy is suitable or appropriate to your specific circumstances. The securities discussed and opinions expressed in this report may not be suitable for all investors, who must make their own investment decisions, based on their own investment objectives, financial positions and needs of specific recipient. This may not be taken in substitution for the exercise of independent judgment by any recipient. The recipient should independently evaluate the investment risks. The value and return on investment may vary because of changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates or any other reason. ICICI Securities accepts no liabilities whatsoever for any loss or damage of any kind arising out of the use of this report. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investors are advised to see Risk Disclosure Document to understand the risks associated before investing in the securities markets. Actual results may differ materially from those set forth in projections. Forward-looking statements are not predictions and may be subject to change without notice.

ICICI Securities or its associates might have managed or co-managed public offering of securities for the subject company or might have been mandated by the subject company for any other assignment in the past twelve months.

ICICI Securities or its associates might have received any compensation from the companies mentioned in the report during the period preceding twelve months from the date of this report for services in respect of managing or co-managing public offerings, corporate finance, investment banking or merchant banking, brokerage services or other advisory service in a merger or specific transaction.

ICICI Securities or its associates might have received any compensation for products or services other than investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services from the companies mentioned in the report in the past twelve months.

ICICI Securities encourages independence in research report preparation and strives to minimize conflict in preparation of research report. ICICI Securities or its associates or its analysts did not receive any compensation or other benefits from the companies mentioned in the report or third party in connection with preparation of the research report. Accordingly, neither ICICI Securities nor Research Analysts and their relatives have any material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this report.

Compensation of our Research Analysts is not based on any specific merchant banking, investment banking or brokerage service transactions.

ICICI Securities or its subsidiaries collectively or Research Analysts or their relatives do not own 1% or more of the equity securities of the Company mentioned in the report as of the last day of the month preceding the publication of the research report.

Since associates of ICICI Securities and ICICI Securities as a entity are engaged in various financial service businesses, they might have financial interests or actual/ beneficial ownership of one percent or more or other material conflict of interest various companies including the subject company/companies mentioned in this report.

ICICI Securities may have issued other reports that are inconsistent with and reach different conclusion from the information presented in this report.

Neither the Research Analysts nor ICICI Securities have been engaged in market making activity for the companies mentioned in the report.

We submit that no material disciplinary action has been taken on ICICI Securities by any Regulatory Authority impacting Equity Research Analysis activities.

This report is not directed or intended for distribution to, or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction, where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law, regulation or which would subject ICICI Securities and affiliates to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction. The securities described herein may or may not be eligible for sale in all jurisdictions or to certain category of investors. Persons in whose possession this document may come are required to inform themselves of and to observe such restriction.