

# Oil & Gas

# **Our latest O&G updates**







# OMCs: Earnings volatility a risk; but attractively placed

- HPCL, BPCL, and IOCL have corrected 9-18% since mid-Feb as the gross marketing margins on petrol/diesel have declined to an average of INR2.3/INR0.2 per lit in Apr'24 from an average of INR8.0/INR3.4 per lit in 4QFY24.
- The current weakness in marketing margins is largely attributable to geopolitical headwinds, ongoing refining capacity maintenance (which has kept diesel GRM high), and elevated freight rates for oil/product transportation. As such, we expect marketing margins to normalize at higher levels from 2QFY25 onwards as the impact of these events subsides.
- HPCL, BPCL, and IOCL are currently trading at FY26E P/B of 1.1x, 1.4x, and 1.2x vs. Oct'23 valuations of 0.8x, 1.0x, and 0.7x, respectively. However, marketing margins were significantly weaker at INR2/-7 per lit for MS/HSD in Oct'23.

# OMCs: Marketing margins to recover as geopolitical challenges ebb

- Gross marketing margins on MS/HSD have been under pressure recently, down to an average of INR2.3/0.2 per lit in Apr'24 vs. our assumption of INR3.3/lit each for both products.
- While the recent oil price cut of INR2/lit each on MS/HSD was in line with our expectations, we do not foresee any further retail price cuts (or a rollback of the recent cut) after the imminent General Elections.
- Oil price volatility remains a risk to earnings stability, as we highlight that the current oil prices (and even refining GRMs) have built in a premium of up to ~USD2/bbl due to the Red Sea crisis. This is because freight rates have risen 60-100% as the ships were forced to sail around the Cape of Good Hope.
- That being said, as impact of geopolitical headwinds wanes, we expect gross marketing margins to recover and come closer to our assumption of INR3.3/lit.

# **HPCL** and **IOCL** have valuation support

- Even if the current depressed marketing margins sustain, we estimate HPCL to generate an RoE of ~10% in FY25. At 1.1x FY26E P/B, we believe valuations have limited room for correction. We see the following as the key medium-term triggers for HPCL: 1) ~10% YoY increase in refining throughput as the Vizag refinery stabilizes; 2) upto 10% higher distillate yield following mechanical completion of the bottom upgrade project in 1QFY25; and 3) commissioning of the 9mmtpa Rajasthan refinery in FY26.
- Based on our estimates, IOCL will generate a 13% RoE in FY25 on normalized marketing margins of INR3.3/lit each for MS/HSD given its larger base and lower leverage to the marketing business. However, we like the strong 20%+ refining capacity growth slated to come between FY24 and FY27. Additionally, we believe the recent announcement about signing a binding agreement with Panasonic Energy Co. to explore Lithium-ion cell manufacturing in India can keep investor interest elevated for the stock.
- We reiterate our neutral rating on BPCL: The stock price has been up 77% in the past one year and has underperformed HPCL (107%) and IOCL (119%). Volume growth for BPCL is back-end loaded, driven by the INR500b petchem project that will commence operations in FY28. On consolidated FY26E P/B basis, BPCL is trading at 1.4x vs. HPCL (1.1x) and IOCL (1.2x).

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# MAHGL, GAIL, and ONGC remain our preferred picks in the sector

- Mahanagar Gas: We recently published our opinion on the CNG price cut and infrastructure exclusivity issue; we continue to prefer MAHGL over IGL (Sell) where growth remains a challenge.
- **GAIL:** is a beneficiary of lower gas prices and higher crude prices (via higher petchem prices); at ~12x FY26E P/E, we believe valuation remains attractive. While current capex cycle is ending, GAIL continues to explore avenues for investments in small-scale LNG, coal gasification, and green hydrogen.
- ONGC continues to trade at 0.9x FY26E P/B on consolidated basis; we expect sustained elevated crude prices to revive volumes in the overseas portfolio for both OVL and Oil India.

# Valuation and View: HPCL remains our top pick followed by IOCL

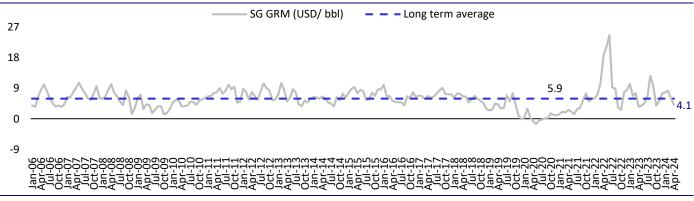
- HPCL (BUY): We value the stock at 1.4x FY26E P/B to arrive at our TP of INR590.
- IOCL (BUY): trades at ~10x consolidated FY25E EPS and 1.3x FY25E P/B. We reiterate our BUY rating with a TP of INR195, valuing it at 1.4x FY26E P/B.
- BPCL (Neutral): At 1.4x FY26E P/B, we see limited downside from the current level. However, with minimal volume growth in the next two years and volatility in earnings from the marketing division, we reiterate our Neutral rating on the stock with a TP of INR620, valuing it at 1.5x FY26E P/B.

**Exhibit 1: Valuation snapshot** 

Componi	TP		E	PS (INF	R)		P/E (x)			P/BV (x	)	EV	/EBITDA	(x)		ROE (%)	
Company	Reco	(INR)	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E												
HPCL	Buy	590	105.7	79.5	80	4.5	6	6	1.6	1.3	1.1	5.4	6.5	6.3	39.8	23.9	20.5
IOCL	Buy	195	34.4	16.2	15.4	4.9	10.5	11.1	1.4	1.3	1.2	4.6	7.8	7.8	31	12.9	11.4
BPCL	Neutral	620	144.3	74.5	75.3	4.2	8.1	8	1.8	1.6	1.5	3.9	6.6	6.1	49.2	21.2	19.2

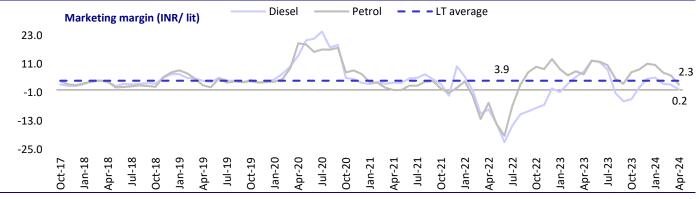
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 2: SG GRM has gone below long term average of USD5.9/bbl



Source: Reuters, MOFSL

Exhibit 3: Marketing margin has declined for both petrol and diesel in Apr'24



Source: Bloomberg, MOFSL

16 April 2024

# **HPCL:** Financial summary and assumptions – BUY (TP: INR590)

**Exhibit 4: Key assumptions** 

Particulars	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Exchange Rate (INR/USD)	70.0	70.9	74.3	74.5	80.4	82.8	83.9	85.0
Brent Crude (USD/bbl)	70.1	61.2	44.4	80.5	96.1	83.4	85.0	85.0
Market Sales (MMT)	38.7	39.6	36.6	39.1	43.5	45.9	47.8	49.7
YoY (%)	5	2	(8)	7	11	6	4	4
GRM (USD/bbl)	5.0	1.0	3.9	7.2	12.1	10.4	9.0	9.0
Singapore GRM (USD/bbl)	4.9	3.2	0.5	5.0	10.7	6.6	6.0	6.0
Prem/(disc) (USD/bbl)	0	(2)	3	2	1	3.8	3.0	3.0
Total Refinery throughput (MMT)	18.4	17.2	16.4	14.0	19.1	21.3	24.5	24.5
YoY (%)	1%	-7%	-4%	-15%	37%	11%	15%	0%
Refining capacity utilization (%)	117%	109%	104%	88%	85%	87%	100%	100%
Blended marketing margin incld inventory (INR/lit)	4.3	4.0	6.3	4.3	(0.8)	5.3	4.5	4.5
Consolidated EPS	47.2	25.7	75.1	51.4	-49.2	105.7	79.5	80.0

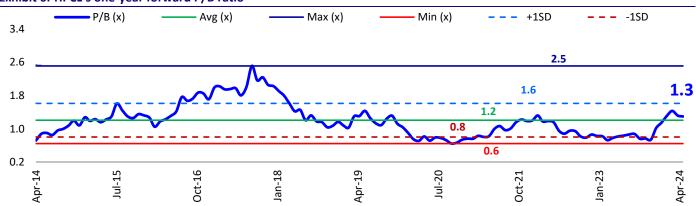
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 5: Financial summary (INR b)

Y/E march	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	2,754.9	2,690.9	2,332.5	3,499.1	4,407.1	4,218.5	4,235.8	4,356.8
EBITDA	115.3	56.6	160.0	102.4	-72.1	246.5	204.8	210.3
Adj. PAT	66.9	36.4	106.6	72.9	-69.8	150.0	112.8	113.5
Adj. EPS (INR)	47.2	25.7	75.1	51.4	-49.2	105.7	79.5	80.0
EPS Gr. (%)	-7.3	-45.6	192.8	-31.6	PL	LP	-24.8	0.6
BV/Sh.(INR)	214.2	218.3	268.4	291.8	227.4	303.4	361.4	419.4
Ratios								
Net D:E	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.1	2.1	1.5	1.3	1.1
RoE (%)	23.9	11.9	30.9	18.4	-19.0	39.8	23.9	20.5
RoCE (%)	12.9	12.0	14.9	8.3	-7.8	14.4	9.9	9.1
Payout (%)	43.0	76.0	30.3	27.2	0.0	28.1	27.0	27.5
Valuations								
P/E (x)	9.9	18.2	6.2	9.1	-9.5	4.4	5.9	5.8
P/BV (x)	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.6	2.1	1.5	1.3	1.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	8.0	18.6	6.8	10.8	-18.4	5.3	6.4	6.2
Div. Yield (%)	3.4	2.1	4.9	3.0	0.0	6.4	4.6	4.7
FCF Yield (%)	-4.1	-12.6	9.4	5.7	-19.3	13.7	8.6	9.4

Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 6: HPCL's one-year forward P/B ratio



Source: Company, MOFSL

# IOCL - Financial summary and assumptions - Neutral (TP: INR195)

**Exhibit 7: Key assumptions** 

Particulars	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Exchange Rate (INR/USD)	70.0	70.9	74.3	74.5	80.4	82.8	83.9	85.0
Brent Crude (USD/bbl)	70.1	61.2	44.4	80.5	96.1	83.0	85.0	85.0
Domestic direct sales refined pdts (MMT)	85	84	76	80	91	92	96	100
YoY (%)	10%	0%	-10%	6%	13%	2%	4%	4%
Reported GRM (USD/bbl)	5.4	0.1	5.6	11.3	19.5	13.4	9.0	9.0
Singapore GRM (USD/bbl)	4.9	3.2	0.5	5.0	10.7	6.6	6.0	6.0
Prem./(disc) (USD/bbl)	0.5	(3.1)	5.1	6.3	8.8	6.8	3.0	3.0
Refining capacity utilization (%)	104%	100%	90%	98%	105%	105%	104%	104%
Total Refinery throughput (MMT)	71.8	69.4	62.4	67.7	72.3	72.5	72.0	72.0
YoY (%)	4%	-3%	-10%	9%	7%	0%	-1%	0%
Marketing Margin (INR/lit)								
Blended gross marketing margin incld inventory	5.0	5.8	6.2	4.4	-1.1	5.7	4.1	4.1
Consolidated EPS	12.5	1.8	15.8	18.7	8.5	34.4	16.2	15.4

Source: Company, MOFSL

**Exhibit 8: Financial summary (INR b)** 

Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	5,281.6	4,837.6	3,639.5	5,893.4	8,418	7,579	10,440	11,210
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EBITDA	352.2	168.4	405.9	477.4	307	800	472	474
Adj. PAT	172.7	24.1	217.6	257.3	117	474	223	212
Adj. EPS (INR)	12.5	1.8	15.8	18.7	8.5	34.4	16.2	15.4
EPS Gr. (%)	(23.7)	(86.0)	801.4	18.2	-54.5	304.9	-53.0	-4.9
BV/Sh.(INR)	81.7	69.3	81.2	97.0	101.5	120.7	130.6	140.3
Ratios								
Net D:E	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.6
RoE (%)	15.3	2.3	21.0	21.0	8.6	31.0	12.9	11.4
RoCE (%)	10.6	2.4	10.0	12.4	8.2	17.7	8.3	7.4
Payout (%)	57.5	NM	59.2	52.6	35.3	44.2	38.3	37.5
Valuations								
P/E (x)	9.0	18.3	7.1	9.0	19.8	4.9	10.4	11.0
P/BV (x)	2.1	2.4	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	7.0	16.5	6.4	5.8	9.5	4.4	7.5	7.5
Div. Yield (%)	5.5	2.5	7.1	7.5	2.7	9.0	3.7	3.4
FCF Yield (%)	1.6	(2.9)	28.6	12.7	15.8	18.9	7.1	7.8

Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 9: IOCL's one-year forward P/B ratio



Source: Company, MOFSL

# **BPCL**– Financial summary and assumptions – Neutral (TP: INR620)

**Exhibit 10: Key assumptions** 

Particulars	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Exchange Rate (INR/USD)	70.0	70.9	74.3	74.5	80.4	82.8	83.9	85.0
Crude cost (USD/bbl)	70.1	61.2	44.4	80.5	96.1	83.0	85.0	85.0
Domestic Market Sales (mmt)	43.1	43.1	38.7	42.5	48.9	51.2	53.2	55.3
YoY (%)	5%	0%	-10%	10%	15%	5%	4%	4%
Reported GRM (USD/bbl)	4.6	2.5	4.1	9.5	20.3	14.0	9.0	9.0
Singapore GRM (USD/bbl)	4.9	3.2	0.5	5.0	10.7	6.6	6.0	6.0
Prem/(disc) (USD/bbl)	(0.3)	(0.7)	3.6	4.5	9.6	7.4	3.0	3.0
Refinery throughput (mmt)	31.0	31.9	26.4	34.1	38.5	39.5	40.0	40.0
YoY (%)	9%	3%	-17%	29%	13%	3%	1%	0%
Marketing Margin (INR/lit)								
Blended gross marketing margin incld inventory	4.8	4.7	6.9	5.0	(1.4)	5.5	4.1	4.1
Consolidated EPS	40.7	23.8	63.2	52.0	9.4	144.3	74.5	75.3

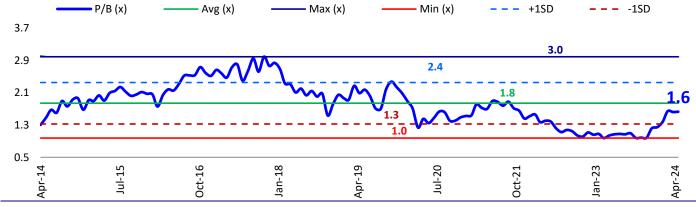
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 11: Financial summary (INR b)

Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	2,982.3	2,845.7	2,301.6	3,467.9	4,731.9	4,497.0	4,217.6	4,347.6
EBITDA	158.1	100.2	211.0	188.5	93.8	448.3	255.9	262.0
Adj. PAT	85.3	49.8	132.4	108.9	19.7	301.9	155.9	157.7
EPS (INR)	40.7	23.8	63.2	52.0	9.4	144.3	74.5	75.3
EPS Gr.%	-12.9	-41.6	165.6	-17.8	-81.9	1431.0	-48.4	1.2
BV/Sh. (INR)	185.2	174.6	255.9	248.0	255.7	331.2	371.6	412.7
Ratios								
Net D:E	1.1	1.5	0.6	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.4
RoE (%)	22.6	13.2	29.4	20.6	3.7	49.2	21.2	19.2
RoCE (%)	11.8	9.1	15.9	10.9	-0.4	25.4	12.3	11.6
Payout (%)	54.6	110.2	95.5	28.7	98.2	47.7	45.7	45.4
Valuation								
P/E (x)	14.6	24.9	9.4	11.4	62.9	4.1	8.0	7.9
P/BV (x)	3.2	3.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	7.4	11.6	5.9	6.6	13.2	2.8	4.9	4.7
Div. yield (%)	3.4	3.0	13.3	2.7	1.7	11.6	5.7	5.8
FCF yield (%)	-0.3	-3.7	11.6	9.5	3.2	22.6	13.4	15.0

Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 12: BPCL's one-year forward P/B ratio



Source: Company, MOFSL

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