

# City gas companies may see muted Q1

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ  
New Delhi, July 14

**CITY GAS DISTRIBUTION** companies — Indraprastha Gas and Mahanagar Gas — might have seen flat-to-marginal volume growth sequentially in the June quarter, and a fall in earnings on year.

According to Elara Capital, EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) of IGL and MGL is set to decline 16% and 31% on year, respectively, led by a 26-38% decline in EBITDA per scm margin partly offset by 7-11% volume growth. "Gross margin should decline sequentially for IGL as well. However, with normalisation in opex (operational expenses) which was elevated in Q4FY24, unit EBITDA would likely be flat sequentially at ₹6.6/scm against ₹8.6/scm in the correspond-

ing quarter last year," said Kotak Institutional Equities.

According to analysts at Kotak Institutional Equities, "For MGL, due to low base (2.3% on year decline in Q1FY24), CNG volume will look optically strong." It expects MGL's unit EBITDA to decline further to ₹10.5 per

standard cubic meter (scm) from ₹11.5 in the previous quarter. However, Gujarat Gas — the leading city gas distribution company in Gujarat — might see a 51% EBITDA growth on year based on 13%

growth in volume, according to Elara Capital. It also expects a 33% EBITDA/scm margin growth to ₹6.1/scm for the company.

"Gujarat Gas will benefit from likely LNG surplus and propane demand surge globally from early 2025, which will make gas economics favourable," Elara Capital said.



# Govt eyes hydrogen-dispensing infra across country

**Alisha Sachdev**

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**NEW DELHI:** India is preparing to launch a roadmap aimed at establishing a hydrogen-dispensing infrastructure across the country to promote the gas as a clean mobility fuel.

Currently, with only a couple of operational hydrogen filling stations, the push is on to engage private participants in building additional dispensing facilities locally, two senior government officials aware of the plans told Mint on condition of anonymity.

A specialized steering committee, composed of officials from the ministry of road transport and highways, the ministry of new and renewable energy, and including the Principal Scientific Adviser to the government, is scheduled to convene in August or September. This committee's objective is to develop recommendations and an action



**The government is studying a roadmap to set up a hydrogen dispensing ecosystem.**

REUTERS

plan to create hydrogen corridors, promote domestic storage of hydrogen and dispensing infrastructure, and standardize hydrogen storage pressure in India. Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari will chair the meeting. The ministry is a key stakeholder in India's National Hydrogen Mission and the government's broader initiative to support cleaner, alternative fuels to com-

bat climate change.

"If India doesn't have a dispensing ecosystem, how do we build hydrogen highways and how do we encourage commercialization of hydrogen-run vehicles, a technology auto OEMs have already tested and proven?" the first government official cited above said. "The dispensing infrastructure at this point in time exists only in a handful places, and we need to make it eco-

nomically feasible to scale it across the country as soon as possible." The official emphasized the need to establish the feasibility and return on investment for hydrogen dispensing stations, noting that there are no local manufacturers of the components required for building dispensing stations in India. Instead, assemblers are dependent on imported components.

The government is studying a roadmap to set up a hydrogen dispensing ecosystem. This includes a report with inter-ministerial recommendations involving seven to eight ministries, each tasked with specific responsibilities. "There are enablers needed from various ministries, once they are identified, then a comprehensive roadmap can be chalked out and various accountability parameters and timelines will be set in motion" the official cited above stated, adding that a scientific study conducted by the World Resour-

ces Institute (WRI) will also serve as a resource for the discussions.

A crucial aspect of the plan is determining the appropriate storage pressure for hydrogen, ranging from 350 to 700 bar. High-pressure storage is essential for maximizing efficiency and safety, but comes at a price. "We want to have a hydrogen ecosystem quickly because the auto industry is ready with vehicles and technology," the official added. "Hydrogen is already a proven technology. Now the onus is on the filling infrastructure to be ready as fast as possible." A group of ministers will deliberate on the necessary enablers for hydrogen as a mobility fuel. The inter-ministerial meeting will also consult potential private entrants, particularly those in the steel and high-pressure systems sectors, to foster a conducive environment for hydrogen infrastructure development.





## **Govt Should Rope in PSU Firms to Ensure Fermented Organic Manure Off-take: IBA**

**New Delhi:** Indian Biogas Association (IBA) has suggested that the government should rope in state-owned fertiliser marketing companies to ensure off-take of fermented organic manure to boost the sector.—PTI

# India eyes H2 fuel road map

A panel headed by Nitin Gadkari will develop recommendations and an action plan to create hydrogen corridors

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NEW DELHI

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Efforts are on to engage private players in building facilities locally. REUTERS

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Queries sent to the ministry of road transport and highways and the ministry of new and renewable energy remained unanswered till press time.

The panel will brainstorm the right amount of pressure for hydrogen storage. For instance, hydrogen internal combustion engines require pressure of only 200-220 bar, which can be achieved by using the same technology required for dispensing compressed natural gas (CNG). Leading original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) have used this in their testing facilities for homologation.

"Interestingly, we view hydrogen-internal combustion engine vehicles as a low-hanging fruit because pilots OEMs have done have utilized similar technology used for CNG-dispensing infrastructure, because in these cases,

hydrogen is stored at less than 200-220 bar pressure". "Achieving a consensus on the standard storage pressure will be key to working out other aspects of the ecosystem", he added.

Hydrogen ICE vehicles typically operate with hydrogen stored at pressures around 200-220 bar, which is lower than the 350-700 bar pressures required for fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs). This lower pressure range is more compatible with existing CNG infrastructure, which also operates within a similar pressure range.

India now seems keen to adopt alternative fuels to achieve net-zero emissions goals in the mobility

sector, extending its focus beyond electric vehicles.

Under the national green hydrogen mission, India aims to produce 5 million tonnes (MT) of green hydrogen by 2030. Achieving this target necessitates diversified and localized value chains, economies of scale, and a robust network of dispensing stations.

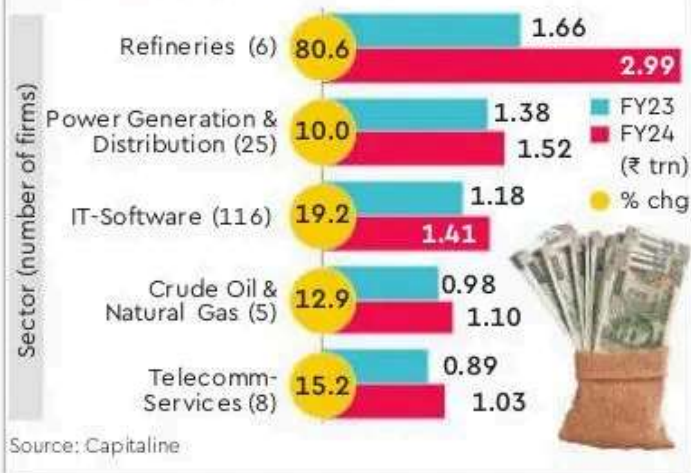
The commercialization of hydrogen as a fuel presents challenges, including high upfront costs of setting up high-pressure (700 bar) dispensing stations. The upcoming government roadmap will address critical aspects such as obtaining safety clearances and adopting regulatory safety permissions for these stations, as well as local manufacturing of type 3 and type 4 cylinders, which is crucial to reduce dependency on imports and lower costs.



# India Inc's cash flow up 18%

DATA SUGGEST THERE was, a marginal slowdown in the growth in gross fixed assets or GFA (including capital work-in-progress) last year. A study by Bank of Baroda reveals that for a set of 2,165 companies, GFA went up 5.6% last year to ₹34.09 trillion, against 5.9% in the previous year. The lull in capital formation activity continued into this year. New project announcements nationwide, in the first quarter, came in at ₹59,931 crore, down 92% year-on-year, the smallest levels in over a decade, provisional data from CMIE, showed.

## TOP 5 SECTORS BY OCF





## Kuwait announces 'giant' oil discovery

**C**hinese Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Sunday it had made a “giant” oil discovery in the Al-Nokhatha field east of the Kuwaiti island of Failaka, with oil reserves estimated at 3.2 billion barrels.

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation’s chief executive officer Sheikh Nawaf Saud Nasir Al-Sabah said in a video posted by the company on X that the new discovery’s reserves were equivalent to the country’s entire production in three years.

The initial estimated area of the newly discovered oil well is around 96 square km, KPC said in its statement.

It added that the preliminary estimates of the hydrocarbon reserves present at the well were estimated at approximately 2.1 billion barrels of light oil, and 5.1 trillion standard cubic feet of gas, which correspond to 3.2 billion barrels of oil equivalent.

**PTI**

## आईओसी ने शुरू किया रेसिंग कार में इस्तेमाल होने वाले ईंधन का उत्पादन

नई दिल्ली। इंडियन ऑयल ने रेसिंग कार में इस्तेमाल होने वाले ईंधन स्टॉर्म-एक्स का उत्पादन शुरू किया है और इसकी पहली खेप भेज दी है। इसके



साथ ही, वह एफ1 रेसिंग में इस्तेमाल होने वाले

ईंधन का उत्पादन करने वाली पहली भारतीय कंपनी बन गई है। इंडियन ऑयल के निदेशक (विपणन) वी सतीश कुमार ने कहा, ओडिशा के परादीप में उसकी रिफ़ाइनरी ने स्टॉर्म-एक्स का उत्पादन शुरू कर दिया है। यह हई ऑक्टोन पेट्रोल विशेष रूप से रेसिंग कारों के लिए तैयार किया गया है। एजेंसी

# इंडियन ऑयल ने रेसिंग कार में इस्तेमाल होने वाले ईंधन स्टॉर्म-एक्स का उत्पादन शुरू किया

वैभव न्यूज़ ■ नई दिल्ली

भारत की प्रमुख पेट्रोलियम कंपनी इंडियन ऑयल ने एडेनालाइन-पंपिंग मोटर रेसिंग में इस्तेमाल होने वाले ईंधन का उत्पादन शुरू किया है और इसकी पहली खेप भेज दी है। कंपनी ने बयान में कहा कि ओडिशा के पारदीप में उसकी रिफ़ाइनरी ने स्टॉर्म-एक्स का उत्पादन शुरू कर दिया है। यह हर्ड-ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल विशेष रूप से रेसिंग कारों के लिए तैयार किया गया है। इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन (आईओसी) के निदेशक (विपणन) वी सतीश कुमार ने शनिवार को एक कार्यक्रम में स्टॉर्म-एक्स की पहली खेप को खाना किया। देश की सबसे



बड़ी पेट्रोलियम कंपनी आईओसी की ईंधन बाजार में लगभग 40 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है। आईओसी एफ1 रेसिंग में इस्तेमाल होने वाले ईंधन का उत्पादन करने वाली पहली भारतीय कंपनी और वैश्विक स्तर पर चुनिंदा कंपनियों में एक बन गई है। बयान

में कहा गया कि यह पेशकश फ़र्म के नवाचार और उत्कृष्टता की खोज का हिस्सा है। इस प्रीमियम रेस ईंधन को आईओसी अनुसंधान एवं विकास केंद्र, फरीदाबाद ने तैयार किया है और इसका उत्पादन अत्याधुनिक पारदीप रिफ़ाइनरी में किया गया।





इंडियन ऑयल ने स्ट्रॉम-एक्स के पहले प्रेषण की घोषणा की, जो विशेष रूप से रेसिंग कारों के लिए तैयार किया गया प्रीमियम रेसिंग ईंधन लॉन्च किया है। इस कार्यक्रम को वी.सतीश कुमार, निदेशक (विपणन), एन. संधिल कुमार, निदेशक (पाइपलाइन्स) और आलोक शर्मा, निदेशक (आरएंडडी) ने हरी झंडी दिखाई।



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## ‘कोटला गांव में दो माह में बिछ जाएगी गैस पाइपलाइन’

जागरण संवाददाता, पूर्वी दिल्ली : कोटला गांव में पीएनजी पाइपलाइन बिछाने का कार्य शुरू हो गया है।



रोहित मेहरौलिया

क्षेत्रीय विधायक रोहित मेहरौलिया ने इस कार्य का उद्घाटन पर बताया कि करीब दो माह में पाइपलाइन बिछाने का काम

पूरा हो जाएगा। कनेक्शन के लिए भी गांव में ही कैंप लगवाया जाएगा। इस पाइपलाइन के बिछाने से किसी को गैस सिलेंडर संजो कर रखने की चिंता नहीं रहेगी। यह सिलेंडर से किफायती भी पड़ेगी।

कोटला गांव त्रिलोकपुरी विधानसभा के अंतर्गत आने वाला राजधानी का पुराना गांव हैं। इस गांव में करीब 1200 मकान हैं। यहां अभी तक खाना पकाने के लिए गैस सिलेंडर

का उपयोग किया जाता है। स्थानीय लोग लंबे समय से मांग कर रहे थे कि गांव तक पीएनजी की पाइपलाइन बिछावाई जाए, ताकि हर वक्त गैस घरों में उपलब्ध रहे। सिलेंडर रखने और उनको भरवाने का झंझट खत्म हो जाए। उनकी मांग को देखते हुए पाइपलाइन के लिए प्रयास किया गया। अब आइजीएल ने यहां पर पाइपलाइन बिछाने का काम शुरू कर दिया है।