

**CESC**

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

## Attractive valuations

- CESC has corrected ~12% in the last one and a half months since the FY19-20 tariff order for the Kolkata license area came out. Investors are mainly concerned about the non-consideration of interest on short-term borrowings and working capital in the present tariff, though WBERC has clearly mentioned submitting details in APR. WBERC will examine the necessity of such loans on the tariff gap during the year and will decide accordingly. We believe that it will be eventually passed on to consumers. It is important to note that capex for FY19-20 has been approved and that the T&D loss has been kept unchanged at 14.3%. The actual T&D loss for FY19-20 stood at ~9%, and hence CESC will benefit. We believe that the Kolkata license area will remain a steady cash cow for the company.
- Stocks of pure utilities sector like NTPC and Power Grid have remained firm in the recent past despite a significant increase in commodity prices, as they are not affected by it. Hence, we believe CESC's standalone earnings will also not be impacted by it.
- The profitability of Dhariwal Infrastructure is expected to improve further. Dhariwal's 9MFY22 PAT stood at Rs1,090mn vs. Rs750mn in 9MFY21 due to high short-term power prices at the power exchange in the current quarter. Q3FY22 PAT stood at Rs500mn. Dhariwal Infrastructure participated in a 210MW bid in a medium-term power purchase tender floated by the Railway Energy Management Company Limited for a period of three years, and it has emerged at L1 in the bid. While Unit-2 of the plant has been fully tied up under long term PPA with NPCL(170MW) and TANGENDO (100MW), if they are able to tie up 210MW under medium term for Unit-1, this plant will generate good cash flow. With this, profitability of this IPP can increase further in FY23 to ~Rs1.8bn.
- Distribution remains the growth driver for CESC. In the last few years, it has won four distribution-based franchises – three in Rajasthan (Kota, Bharatpur and Bikaner in FY17/18) and one in Malegaon, Maharashtra. The loss at Malegaon has come down to Rs410mn (9MFY22) from Rs540mn (9MFY21). While the performance of the Malegaon circle was satisfactory, Rajasthan discoms' performance has been impacted by Kota circle. Losses from Rajasthan circles have widened to Rs190mn in 9MFY22 from Rs110mn in 9MFY21. Of these, Bharatpur and Bikaner have already turned positive. CESC, through its subsidiary, has emerged as the highest bidder to acquire a 100% stake in the power distribution company of Chandigarh.
- **Valuation:** We maintain our positive view on CESC with a Sept'22 TP of Rs101 (unchanged). At CMP, the stock offers a 6% dividend yield and mid-single digit earnings growth. We believe CESC remains one of the key beneficiaries of the distribution reforms anticipated in the country in the coming years. With ~13% RoE and PB of 0.8x, it remains attractively priced. Maintain Buy.

### Financial Snapshot (Consolidated)

| (Rs mn)           | FY20     | FY21     | FY22E    | FY23E    | FY24E    |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Revenue           | 1,21,590 | 1,16,390 | 1,23,061 | 1,27,990 | 1,33,245 |
| EBITDA            | 37,743   | 36,100   | 37,896   | 38,788   | 39,455   |
| EBITDA Margin (%) | 31.0     | 31.0     | 30.8     | 30.3     | 29.6     |
| APAT              | 12,673   | 13,310   | 14,017   | 14,514   | 15,069   |
| EPS (Rs)          | 9.5      | 10.0     | 10.5     | 10.9     | 11.3     |
| EPS (% chg)       | 7.0      | 5.0      | 5.3      | 3.5      | 3.8      |
| ROE (%)           | 13.8     | 13.8     | 13.6     | 13.1     | 12.6     |
| P/E (x)           | 7.7      | 7.4      | 7.0      | 6.8      | 6.5      |
| EV/EBITDA (x)     | 5.3      | 5.6      | 5.1      | 4.7      | 4.5      |
| P/BV (x)          | 1.0      | 1.0      | 0.9      | 0.9      | 0.8      |

Source: Company, Emkay Research

|                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>CMP</b>                          | <b>Target Price</b>            |
| <b>Rs 74.5</b><br>as of (3/21/2022) | <b>Rs 101 (■)</b><br>12 months |
| <b>Rating</b>                       | <b>Upside</b>                  |
| <b>BUY (■)</b>                      | <b>35.6 %</b>                  |

### Change in Estimates

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| EPS Chg FY22E/FY23E (%) | -/- |
| Target Price change (%) | -   |
| Target Period (Months)  | 12  |
| Previous Reco           | BUY |

### Emkay vs Consensus

| EPS Estimates           |        |       |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|
|                         | FY22E  | FY23E |
| Emkay                   | 10.5   | 10.9  |
| Consensus               | 10.5   | 11.7  |
| Mean Consensus TP (12M) | Rs 109 |       |

### Stock Details

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Bloomberg Code               | CESC IN   |
| Face Value (Rs)              | 1         |
| Shares outstanding (mn)      | 1,326     |
| 52 Week H/L                  | 102 / 58  |
| M Cap (Rs bn/USD bn)         | 98 / 1.29 |
| Daily Avg Volume (nos.)      | 28,45,119 |
| Daily Avg Turnover (US\$ mn) | 3.2       |

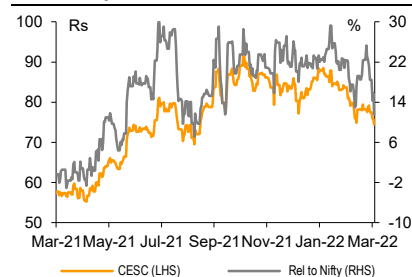
### Shareholding Pattern Dec '21

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Promoters         | 52.1% |
| FIIIs             | 13.5% |
| DIIIs             | 22.1% |
| Public and Others | 12.4% |

### Price Performance

| (%)                  | 1M  | 3M   | 6M   | 12M |
|----------------------|-----|------|------|-----|
| <b>Absolute</b>      | (7) | (13) | (20) | 20  |
| <b>Rel. to Nifty</b> | (7) | (14) | (19) | 2   |

### Relative price chart



Source: Bloomberg

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**Abhineet Anand**

abhineet.anand@emkayglobal.com  
+91 22 6624 2466

**Abhishek Mody**

abhishek.mody@emkayglobal.com  
+91 22 6624 2491

**Exhibit 1: SoTP**

|                         | Value<br>(Rs mn) | Multiple | Method            | Stake  | Target<br>Value<br>(Rs mn) | Value /<br>Share |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------|-------------------|--------|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Distribution</b>     |                  |          |                   |        |                            |                  |
| Kolkata Reg Equity      | 34,409           | 2.0      | (RoE-g)/(CoE-g)   | 100%   | 67,358                     | 51               |
| Noida                   | 6,370            | 2.3      | (RoE-g)/(CoE-g)   | 73.0%  | 10,695                     | 8                |
| Distribution Franchisee | 4,115            | 1.0      | Equity Investment | 100.0% | 4,115                      | 3                |
| Chandigarh License      | 1,800            | 1.5      | Equity Investment | 100.0% | 2,700                      | 2                |
| <b>Total</b>            |                  |          |                   |        | <b>84,868</b>              | <b>64</b>        |
| <b>Generation</b>       |                  |          |                   |        |                            |                  |
| Kolkata Reg Equity      | 14,354           | 1.7      | RoE/Ke            | 100%   | 23,694                     | 18               |
| Haldia Reg Equity       | 10,500           | 2.0      | RoE/Ke            | 100%   | 21,000                     | 16               |
| Dhariwal/Chandrapur     | 4,699            | 1.0      | NPV               | 100%   | 4,699                      | 4                |
| Crescent Power          | 118              | 8.0      | 8x PAT            | 68%    | 641                        | 0                |
| <b>Total</b>            |                  |          |                   |        | <b>50,034</b>              | <b>38</b>        |
| <b>SoTP - Sept'22</b>   |                  |          |                   |        | <b>134,901</b>             | <b>101</b>       |

Source: Emkay Research

**Key Financials (Consolidated)****Income Statement**

| Y/E Mar (Rs mn)                  | FY20            | FY21            | FY22E           | FY23E           | FY24E           |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                   | <b>1,21,590</b> | <b>1,16,390</b> | <b>1,23,061</b> | <b>1,27,990</b> | <b>1,33,245</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>               | <b>83,848</b>   | <b>80,290</b>   | <b>85,165</b>   | <b>89,203</b>   | <b>93,790</b>   |
| <b>EBITDA</b>                    | <b>37,743</b>   | <b>36,100</b>   | <b>37,896</b>   | <b>38,788</b>   | <b>39,455</b>   |
| Depreciation                     | 8,480           | 8,670           | 8,986           | 9,038           | 9,268           |
| <b>EBIT</b>                      | <b>29,263</b>   | <b>27,430</b>   | <b>28,910</b>   | <b>29,749</b>   | <b>30,187</b>   |
| Other Income                     | 2,190           | 2,350           | 1,514           | 1,544           | 1,564           |
| Interest expenses                | 13,780          | 12,260          | 12,019          | 12,211          | 11,926          |
| <b>PBT</b>                       | <b>17,673</b>   | <b>17,520</b>   | <b>18,405</b>   | <b>19,082</b>   | <b>19,824</b>   |
| Tax                              | 4,580           | 3,890           | 4,049           | 4,198           | 4,361           |
| Extraordinary Items              | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Minority Int./Income from Assoc. | (420)           | (320)           | (338)           | (370)           | (393)           |
| <b>Reported Net Income</b>       | <b>12,673</b>   | <b>13,310</b>   | <b>14,017</b>   | <b>14,514</b>   | <b>15,069</b>   |
| <b>Adjusted PAT</b>              | <b>12,673</b>   | <b>13,310</b>   | <b>14,017</b>   | <b>14,514</b>   | <b>15,069</b>   |

**Balance Sheet**

| Y/E Mar (Rs mn)                            | FY20            | FY21            | FY22E           | FY23E           | FY24E           |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Equity share capital                       | 1,332           | 1,332           | 1,332           | 1,332           | 1,332           |
| Reserves & surplus                         | 92,780          | 97,400          | 1,05,422        | 1,13,925        | 1,22,476        |
| <b>Net worth</b>                           | <b>94,112</b>   | <b>98,732</b>   | <b>1,06,755</b> | <b>1,15,257</b> | <b>1,23,808</b> |
| <b>Minority Interest</b>                   | <b>3,650</b>    | <b>3,970</b>    | <b>4,308</b>    | <b>4,678</b>    | <b>5,072</b>    |
| <b>Loan Funds</b>                          | <b>1,21,816</b> | <b>1,24,650</b> | <b>1,21,399</b> | <b>1,18,393</b> | <b>1,18,303</b> |
| Net deferred tax liability                 | 40,420          | 41,590          | 41,590          | 41,590          | 41,590          |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                   | <b>2,59,998</b> | <b>2,68,942</b> | <b>2,74,052</b> | <b>2,79,918</b> | <b>2,88,772</b> |
| <b>Net block</b>                           | <b>2,45,050</b> | <b>2,39,710</b> | <b>2,38,529</b> | <b>2,37,646</b> | <b>2,40,698</b> |
| <b>Investment</b>                          | <b>1,800</b>    | <b>3,090</b>    | <b>3,090</b>    | <b>3,090</b>    | <b>3,090</b>    |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                      | <b>86,302</b>   | <b>93,502</b>   | <b>1,02,405</b> | <b>1,08,589</b> | <b>1,17,221</b> |
| Cash & bank balance                        | 19,790          | 18,580          | 25,910          | 30,863          | 38,194          |
| Other Current Assets                       | 38,302          | 42,522          | 42,648          | 42,777          | 42,909          |
| <b>Current liabilities &amp; Provision</b> | <b>77,174</b>   | <b>70,960</b>   | <b>73,572</b>   | <b>73,006</b>   | <b>75,836</b>   |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                  | <b>9,128</b>    | <b>22,542</b>   | <b>28,833</b>   | <b>35,582</b>   | <b>41,385</b>   |
| Misc. exp                                  | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                        | <b>2,59,998</b> | <b>2,68,942</b> | <b>2,74,052</b> | <b>2,79,918</b> | <b>2,88,772</b> |

**Cash Flow**

| Y/E Mar (Rs mn)                       | FY20            | FY21            | FY22E           | FY23E           | FY24E           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>PBT (Ex-Other income) (NI+Dep)</b> | <b>15,483</b>   | <b>15,170</b>   | <b>16,891</b>   | <b>17,538</b>   | <b>18,260</b>   |
| Other Non-Cash items                  | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Chg in working cap                    | 7,503           | (13,454)        | 1,039           | (1,796)         | 1,529           |
| <b>Operating Cashflow</b>             | <b>34,090</b>   | <b>28,180</b>   | <b>34,887</b>   | <b>32,793</b>   | <b>36,622</b>   |
| Capital expenditure                   | (9,240)         | (6,800)         | (7,805)         | (8,155)         | (12,320)        |
| <b>Free Cash Flow</b>                 | <b>24,851</b>   | <b>21,380</b>   | <b>27,082</b>   | <b>24,638</b>   | <b>24,302</b>   |
| Investments                           | 10,615          | (1,290)         | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Other Investing Cash Flow             | (8,225)         | (9,160)         | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| <b>Investing Cashflow</b>             | <b>(4,660)</b>  | <b>(14,900)</b> | <b>(6,291)</b>  | <b>(6,611)</b>  | <b>(10,756)</b> |
| Equity Capital Raised                 | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Loans Taken / (Repaid)                | (4,307)         | 2,834           | (3,251)         | (3,006)         | (90)            |
| Dividend paid (incl tax)              | (3,620)         | (5,940)         | (5,995)         | (6,012)         | (6,518)         |
| Other Financing Cash Flow             | 1,760           | 876             | (1)             | 1               | 0               |
| <b>Financing Cashflow</b>             | <b>(19,947)</b> | <b>(14,490)</b> | <b>(21,266)</b> | <b>(21,228)</b> | <b>(18,535)</b> |
| <b>Net chg in cash</b>                | <b>9,483</b>    | <b>(1,210)</b>  | <b>7,330</b>    | <b>4,953</b>    | <b>7,331</b>    |
| Opening cash position                 | 10,307          | 19,790          | 18,580          | 25,910          | 30,863          |
| <b>Closing cash position</b>          | <b>19,790</b>   | <b>18,580</b>   | <b>25,910</b>   | <b>30,863</b>   | <b>38,194</b>   |

Source: Company, Emkay Research

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**Key Ratios**

| <b>Profitability (%)</b> | <b>FY20</b> | <b>FY21</b> | <b>FY22E</b> | <b>FY23E</b> | <b>FY24E</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| EBITDA Margin            | 31.0        | 31.0        | 30.8         | 30.3         | 29.6         |
| EBIT Margin              | 24.1        | 23.6        | 23.5         | 23.2         | 22.7         |
| Effective Tax Rate       | 25.9        | 22.2        | 22.0         | 22.0         | 22.0         |
| Net Margin               | 10.8        | 11.7        | 11.7         | 11.6         | 11.6         |
| ROCE                     | 12.2        | 11.3        | 11.2         | 11.3         | 11.2         |
| ROE                      | 13.8        | 13.8        | 13.6         | 13.1         | 12.6         |
| RoIC                     | 12.6        | 11.5        | 11.9         | 12.3         | 12.4         |

| <b>Per Share Data (Rs)</b> | <b>FY20</b> | <b>FY21</b> | <b>FY22E</b> | <b>FY23E</b> | <b>FY24E</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| EPS                        | 9.5         | 10.0        | 10.5         | 10.9         | 11.3         |
| CEPS                       | 15.9        | 16.5        | 17.3         | 17.7         | 18.3         |
| BVPS                       | 70.6        | 74.1        | 80.1         | 86.5         | 92.9         |
| DPS                        | 2.2         | 4.5         | 4.5          | 4.5          | 4.9          |

| <b>Valuations (x)</b> | <b>FY20</b> | <b>FY21</b> | <b>FY22E</b> | <b>FY23E</b> | <b>FY24E</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| PER                   | 7.7         | 7.4         | 7.0          | 6.8          | 6.5          |
| P/CEPS                | 5.8         | 5.6         | 5.3          | 5.2          | 5.0          |
| P/BV                  | 1.0         | 1.0         | 0.9          | 0.9          | 0.8          |
| EV / Sales            | 1.6         | 1.7         | 1.6          | 1.4          | 1.3          |
| EV / EBITDA           | 5.3         | 5.6         | 5.1          | 4.7          | 4.5          |
| Dividend Yield (%)    | 3.0         | 6.1         | 6.1          | 6.1          | 6.6          |

| <b>Gearing Ratio (x)</b> | <b>FY20</b> | <b>FY21</b> | <b>FY22E</b> | <b>FY23E</b> | <b>FY24E</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net Debt/ Equity         | 1.1         | 1.1         | 0.9          | 0.7          | 0.6          |
| Net Debt/EBIDTA          | 2.7         | 2.9         | 2.5          | 2.2          | 2.0          |
| Working Cap Cycle (days) | (32.0)      | 12.4        | 8.7          | 13.5         | 8.7          |

| <b>Growth (%)</b> | <b>FY20</b> | <b>FY21</b> | <b>FY22E</b> | <b>FY23E</b> | <b>FY24E</b> |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Revenue           | 14.0        | (4.3)       | 5.7          | 4.0          | 4.1          |
| EBITDA            | 1.8         | (4.4)       | 5.0          | 2.4          | 1.7          |
| EBIT              | (0.6)       | (6.3)       | 5.4          | 2.9          | 1.5          |
| PAT               | 7.0         | 5.0         | 5.3          | 3.5          | 3.8          |

| <b>Quarterly (Rs mn)</b> | <b>Q3FY21</b> | <b>Q4FY21</b> | <b>Q1FY22</b> | <b>Q2FY22</b> | <b>Q3FY22</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Revenue                  | 16,590        | 16,880        | 19,310        | 20,910        | 16,620        |
| EBITDA                   | 2,990         | 3,100         | 3,110         | 4,190         | 2,120         |
| <b>EBITDA Margin (%)</b> | <b>18.0</b>   | <b>18.4</b>   | <b>16.1</b>   | <b>20.0</b>   | <b>12.8</b>   |
| PAT                      | 1,820         | 2,700         | 1,380         | 2,350         | 1,840         |
| <b>EPS (Rs)</b>          | <b>1.4</b>    | <b>2.0</b>    | <b>1.0</b>    | <b>1.8</b>    | <b>1.4</b>    |

Source: Company, Emkay Research

| <b>Shareholding Pattern (%)</b> | <b>Dec-20</b> | <b>Mar-21</b> | <b>Jun-21</b> | <b>Sep-21</b> | <b>Dec-21</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Promoters                       | 49.9          | 49.9          | 49.9          | 52.1          | 52.1          |
| FIs                             | 14.9          | -             | 13.4          | 13.0          | 13.5          |
| DIs                             | 25.7          | 23.8          | 23.6          | 23.0          | 22.1          |
| Public and Others               | 9.5           | 26.3          | 13.1          | 12.0          | 12.4          |

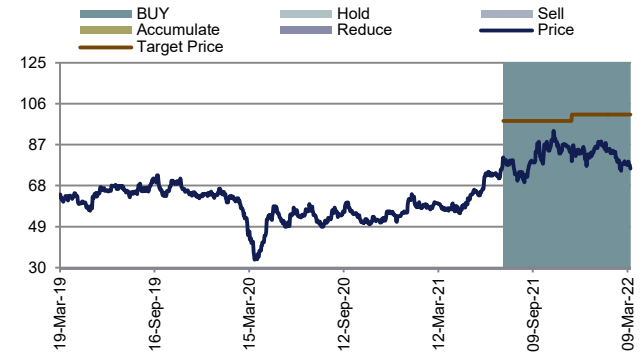
Source: Capitaline

## RECOMMENDATION HISTORY TABLE

| Date      | Closing Price | TP  | Period (months) | Rating | Analyst        |
|-----------|---------------|-----|-----------------|--------|----------------|
| 13-Jan-22 | 88            | 101 | 12m             | Buy    | Abhineet Anand |
| 22-Nov-21 | 79            | 101 | 12m             | Buy    | Abhineet Anand |
| 14-Jul-21 | 81            | 98  | 12m             | Buy    | Abhineet Anand |

Source: Company, Emkay Research

## RECOMMENDATION HISTORY CHART



Source: Bloomberg, Company, Emkay Research

## Emkay Rating Distribution

| Ratings | Expected Return within the next 12-18 months. |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------|
| BUY     | Over 15%                                      |
| HOLD    | Between -5% to 15%                            |
| SELL    | Below -5%                                     |

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**Emkay Global Financial Services Ltd.**

CIN - L67120MH1995PLC084899

7th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar - West, Mumbai - 400028. India

Tel: +91 22 66121212 Fax: +91 22 66121299 Web: [www.emkayglobal.com](http://www.emkayglobal.com)