# BUY (Maintain)

CMP: INR 1,677 Target Price: INR 1,925 (INR 1,875) 🔺 15%

#### 09 February 2025

# **Bharti Airtel**

Telecom

# Value creation from AGR market share win + capital allocation + FCF + deleveraging

Bharti Airtel (Bharti) delivered another strong quarter with an improvement in its key focus criteria, mainly: 1) AGR market share win with Bharti continuing to narrow the gap vs. RJio. 2) Higher incremental EBITDA margin, and profits growing faster. 3) Disciplined capital allocation with tight control on capex. The company has been calibrated on capex into spectrum, SA-5G, FWA, and allied service. 4) Capital structure with continuously reducing debt/leverage. Apart from mobile services, the company has intensified penetration for fixed broadband, using both fibre and FWA; rising adoption of convergence, and digital services within B2B business including cloud, security, IOT, and CPaaS. Bharti has exhibited good discipline in capex, as guided – with capex being lower than FY24; it guided for a further drop in FY26, largely from a slowing in radio deployment.

We have incorporated Indus Towers as a subsidiary (earlier associate), which has increased our EBITDA estimates, but our EPS assumption remains unchanged. However, AGR relief estimate has moved to FY26 (from FY25), which has altered EPS. Our SoTP-based TP is revised to INR 1,925 (from INR 1,875) as we raise India EV/EBITDA multiple to 13x (from 12.5x). Maintain **BUY**. Key risks: 1) Market share loss in India mobile business, and 2) rise in competitive and regulatory intensities.

# Growth in non-mobile businesses stable

**1)** Home services: Number of home broadband customers grew 26.6% YoY to 9.2mn. Revenue/EBITDA grew 18.7%/16.9% YoY to INR 15.1bn/INR 7.5bn. **2)** Enterprise: Revenue grew 8.7% YoY to INR 57bn, EBITDA was down 3.8% YoY to INR 20bn. **3)** Payments bank: Active users were up 48.8% YoY, to 87.2mn, and revenue grew 49.3% YoY/4% QoQ to INR 7bn; EBITDA stood at INR 879mn, up 67.4% YoY/15.5% QoQ.

# Mobile revenue jumped 21.4% YoY/5.8% QoQ to INR 263bn

This was in comparison to RJio's revenue growth of 3.4% QoQ/15.5% YoY, which also includes FTTH and enterprise. RJio gained 3.3mn subs while Bharti gained 4.9mn subs and added 6.5mn 4G subs. RJio's ARPU grew 11.9% YoY vs. Bharti's 18% YoY. Bharti benefited from 2G to 4G transition, and a strong post-paid sub-base (up 13.1% YoY). Bharti is consistently winning market share and narrowing its gap vs. RJio. In Q3FY25, Bharti's mobile ARPU rose 5.3% QoQ to INR 245, and subs base rose 1.4% QoQ to 357mn. Bharti's 4G net add was 6.5mn, taking the total to 270mn, and post-paid subs add was 0.6mn to 25mn; including M2M, it rose 2.2mn to 55.4mn.

# **Financial Summary**

Y/E March (INR mn)	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Revenue	14,99,824	17,22,063	20,59,918	22,74,522
EBITDA	7,82,918	9,43,179	12,12,958	13,54,897
EBITDA Margin (%)	52.2	54.8	58.9	59.6
Net Profit	1,31,311	1,91,841	3,17,476	4,19,940
EPS (INR)	22.8	33.3	51.7	68.3
EPS % Chg YoY	46.4	46.1	54.9	32.3
P/E (x)	73.5	50.3	32.5	24.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	14.9	12.2	9.5	8.3
RoCE (%)	11.2	13.9	17.6	23.3
RoE (%)	16.5	22.3	28.6	30.4

Please refer to important disclosures at the end of this report



Sanjesh Jain

**Mohit Mishra** 

**Market Data** 

+91 22 6807 7153

Aparajita Chakraborty

sanjesh.jain@icicisecurities.com

mohit.mishra@icicisecurities.com

aparajita.chakraborty@icicisecurities.com

ICICI Securities Limited is the author and distributor of this report

# Market Cap (INR) 10,040bn Market Cap (USD) 1,14,783mn Bloomberg Code BHARTI IN Reuters Code BRTI.BO 52-week Range (INR) 1,779/1,098 Free Float (%) 47.0 ADTV-3M (mn) (USD) 105.0

3m	6m	12m
6.4	16.3	47.8
8.5	18.3	39.9
	6.4	3m6m6.416.38.518.3

ESG Score	2023	2024	Change
ESG score	74.9	74.5	(0.4)
Environment	51.8	56.9	5.1
Social	73.4	75.0	1.6
Governance	86.5	85.4	(1.1)

**Note** - Score ranges from 0 - 100 with a higher score indicating higher ESG disclosures.

Source: SES ESG, I-sec research

Earnings Revisions (%)	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	3.3	8.8	8.6
EBITDA	4.4	15.1	13.9
EPS	(8.3)	(16.7)	(0.6)

#### **Previous Reports**

29-11-2024: <u>Company Update</u> 29-10-2024: <u>Q2FY25 results review</u>



India | Equity Research | Results update



# India EBITDAaL grew 43.1% QoQ/ 66.7% YoY to INR 222bn

India EBITDAaL was driven by mobile EBITDA growth of 9.1% QoQ/ 29.6% YoY to INR 155bn. Incremental EBITDA margin for mobile business was 89.8%, despite higher network opex, which increased due to charging of 5G-related opex. However, lower churn rate, and war-on-waste has helped. In comparison, RJio's EBITDA rose 2.9% QoQ/16.6% YoY with incremental EBITDA margin at 45.6% despite the company yet to start charging 5G-related cost to its P&L. Bharti's India depreciation rose 22.3% YoY/ 9.2% QoQ on rise in amortisation (5G spectrum). Net profit increased 91% YoY to INR 55bn and EPS was INR 9.6/share. India pro-rata capex stood at INR 74bn (18% of revenue) in Q3FY25.

# FCF generation was INR 125bn

Net debt declined INR 74bn to INR 1,337bn, and was partially restricted from dividend payout of INR 8bn and other payouts of INR 4bn. Bharti's operating cashflow, after lease payment and interest cost, was INR 187bn, up 21.2% YoY. The company saw working capital benefit of INR 21bn, and its FCF, after interest cost, was INR 125bn. Capex outflow was INR 84bn (capitalised capex was INR 74bn).

# **Other highlights**

- Bharti Airtel has agreed to transfer 12.7k towers (including macro sites, ultra lean sites and cell on wheels, but excluding sites under USOF) to Indus Towers on slump sale basis for INR 21.7bn.
- 5G subs was 120mn, as on Q3FY25, and 80% of smartphone shipped are 5G enabled.
- **Postpaid**: The company believes industry potential to be 80mn, and has been expanding its postpaid subs base.
- *Fixed broadband*: The company has expanded FWA services to 2,000 cities, and helping to increase TAM for fixed broadband as FWA helps cover locations that were fibre dark. The company expects FBB subs to potentially double to 80-90mn (from ~45mn now) with increased connectivity. It is also rolling-out 1.9mn home pass per quarter. The company is trying to catch-up with competition by not only improving FWA footprint, but also sweetening its content/OTT offering, and expanding sales channel beyond digital and D2C by firing retail channel. Resultantly, Bharti has seen improvement in subs addition each month with Jan'25 being better; and Feb'25 has started well.
- **Standalone-5G**: The company has prepared itself for rolling out SA-5G, and can deploy network when required. Currently, it has enough capacity on NSA-5G for FWA, and does not see a requirement.
- **B2B**: Company has defocused on international wholesale voice and SMS services which contribute negligible to EBITDA. The focus remains on 1) domestic connectivity business and expand digital services which is growing fast (90% of incremental revenues). These services are cloud, security, IOT, and CPaaS. Company is also realigning manpower to increase penetration of digital services. However, rise in digital services have hurt segment EBITDA margin as digital services have lower margin profile but also lower capex intensity.
- **Cloud**: Data centre expansion remains focus with steady growth, and expansion in capacity. Company plans to increase its cloud offering, and also increasing its AI enabled data centres, but it will remain slow on GPU as service offering.

# *PICICI Securities*

• **Capex**: Company has guided FY25 capex to be lower than FY24, while 9MFY25 capex intensity is not the benchmark. It has also guided that FY26 capex to be lower than FY25. The major reduction in capex is due to drop in radio deployment with completion of 4G rollout, and 5G rollout remain stable. Its investment in transport will continue, and capex on core is small. Home service capex may remain high for CPE as subs base grow faster. B2B and data centre capex to be stable.

# Other financial highlights

## Bharti India: India EBITDA outperforms peers post tariff increase (wef July'24)

- Bharti India's mobile revenue grew 5.8% QoQ/21.4% YoY to INR 263bn. This is in comparison to RJio's 3.4% QoQ/15.5% YoY, which also includes FTTH and enterprise revenue. RJio gained 3.3mn total subs vs. Bharti's 4G net add of 6.5mn. Bharti has benefited from 2G to 4G transition, faster growth in post-paid subs base (up 13.1% YoY), and better monetisation of data. EBITDA improved 9.1% QoQ/ 29.6% YoY to INR 155bn, and EBITDA margin was 58.8% (+180bps QoQ/ 375bps YoY). Incremental EBITDA margin stood at 89.8% on lower churn and despite higher network cost on large network rollout on 4G rural and 5G loading charges progressively getting charged to P&L.
- Sub-base improved by 4.9mn subs to 357mn (RJio: down 3.3mn in Q3FY25) vs. average addition of 2.9mn in the past 10 quarters. The sharp rise can be attributed to winning back customers lost in previous quarter. Bharti added 0.6mn post-paid subs, which worked out to 13.1% YoY growth to 25.3mn. Post-paid subs, including M2M/IoT, stood at 55.4mn (+2.2mn).
- ARPU rose to INR 245 (up 5.3% QoQ/ 18% YoY) driven by: 1) residual benefit of tariff hike taken in July'24; 2) Improved mix of post-paid subs rising by 13.1% YoY to 25.3mn; 3) continued addition of 4G subs (+6.5mn); 4) premiumisation from 2G to 4G; and 5) data monetization including rising 5G subs.
- Mobile minutes were up 2.8% QoQ/ 6.2% YoY to 1,233-bn, implying a net increase of 33.5-bn minutes QoQ. Minutes of usage per sub came in at 1,160 minutes per month, up 2.2% QoQ.
- **4G** sub base grew 2.5% QoQ/ 10.3% YoY to 270mn (+6.5mn) vs. addition of 4.2mn in Q2FY25. Total data subs rose by 6.4mn to 278mn, up 2.4% QoQ.
- **Data usage** grew 4.5% QoQ/ 23.2% YoY to 20,174bn MB. Data usage per sub came in at 24.5GB per month, up 2.5% QoQ.
- **Churn rate** for Bharti was down 70bp QoQ at 2.5% (vs. 3.2% in Q2FY25). Gross subscriber addition came in at 31.4mn in Q3FY25 (vs. 31.4mn in Q2FY25).
- Non-mobile business (excluding Indus Towers) highlights: 1) Non-mobile revenue grew 0.9% QoQ/ 9.2% YoY to INR 79.2bn and EBITDA grew 0.3% QoQ/ 1.4% YoY to INR 32bn.
- **DTH revenue** was up 0.3% QoQ/ down 2.9% YoY, to INR 8bn, due to Airtel Black's convergence plan. EBITDA was up 4.3% QoQ to INR 4.4bn.
- Airtel business (enterprise) revenue dipped 0.2% QoQ/ +8.7% YoY to INR 56.5bn; EBITDA was down 1.8% QoQ/ 3.8% YoY to INR 20bn.
- Home services revenue jumped 5.4% QoQ/ 18.7% YoY to INR 15.1bn; EBITDA expanded 3.6% QoQ/ 16.9% YoY to INR 7.5bn.
- Overall, **Bharti's India revenue** rose 15.5% QoQ/30.7% YoY to INR 366bn; also includes Indus Towers consolidation for 43 days. India EBITDAaL grew 43.1%

# *AICICI Securities*

QoQ/66.7% YoY to INR 222bn. D&A rose 9.2% QoQ/22.3% YoY to INR 103bn as the company has been recognising 5G-related costs in P&L and recently acquired spectrum. Net profit rose 38.1% QoQ/91% YoY to INR 85bn. Indus Towers had one-off gains from reversal of provision for doubtful debt of INR 32bn (benefit flow to Bharti India at PAT is INR 16bn).

• India capex (pro-rata inclusion of Indus capex) stood at INR 74bn (18% of revenue) in Q3FY25, and INR 205bn (20% of revenue) in 9MFY25.

# Bharti Africa: Sequential growth remains healthy

- In constant currency terms, gross revenue rose 21.3% YoY to USD 1.3bn.
- In USD terms, reported revenue rose 4.4% QoQ/2.4% YoY to USD 1.3bn, which was affected by the devaluation in Nigerian naira. Subs rose 6.5mn at 163mn.
- Mobile minutes rose 6.2% QoQ/15.2% YoY; data usage grew 9.3% QoQ/50.6% YoY.
- **Data subscribers** grew 8.2% QoQ/13.8% YoY to 71mn in Q3FY25. Data usage per subscriber stood at 7.4GB per month, up 4.2% QoQ.
- **EBITDAaL** stood at USD 466mn in Q3FY25, up 8.6% QoQ and 0.4% YoY. EBITDA margin stood at 36.8%, up 150bps QoQ.
- Bharti Africa reported net profit of USD 133mn in Q3FY25 (vs. USD 24mn in Q2FY25). Finance cost was USD 54mn, benefited from forex gains related to African currencies.
- Africa capex was USD 140mn (11% of revenue) in Q3FY25, and USD 456mn (13% of revenue) in 9MFY25.

## Bharti (consolidated) – includes Indus Towers' consolidation for 43days

- Consolidated revenue was INR 451bn, up 8.8% QoQ/19.1% YoY.
- EBITDAaL was INR 216bn, up 13.9%QoQ/ 26.2% YoY. EBITDAaL margin stood at 47.8% in Q3FY25 vs. 45.7% in Q2FY25. EBITDAaL is EBITDA after lease liabilities.
- The company reported net profit of INR 148bn. This was benefited from exceptional gain of INR 75.5bn, on account of consolidation of Indus Towers, reversal of provision created for input tax credit on passive infrastructure services, forex gains related to Africa currency appreciation, partially set off by regulatory charges and impairment loss on intangible assets.
- Net debt declined by INR 74bn to INR 1,337bn. The company generated FCF (after interest cost) of INR 125bn in Q3FY25 despite prepayment of spectrum dues of INR 36bn, which is partly recognised in investing activity and the interest component in finance cost, and cash capex of INR 84bn. The company paid dividend of INR 8bn and recognised spectrum payment of INR 35bn.

# Exhibit 1: Q3FY25 result review (consolidated)

INR mn	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Revenue	3,78,995	3,75,991	3,85,064	4,14,733	4,51,293	8.8	19.1
EBITDA	1,98,148	1,93,648	1,97,077	2,18,462	2,45,966	12.6	24.1
EBITDA margin (%)	52.3	51.5	51.2	52.7	54.5		
EBITDAaL	1,70,974	1,65,859	1,69,462	1,89,471	2,15,742	13.9	26.2
EBITDAaL margin (%)	45.1	44.1	44.0	45.7	47.8		
Depreciation & Amortisation	1,00,743	1,00,752	1,05,401	1,10,000	1,17,042	6.4	16.2
EBIT	97,405	92,896	91,676	1,08,462	1,28,924	18.9	32.4
Interest	62,051	48,864	47,889	51,690	52,058	0.7	(16.1)
Share of profits(losses) in JV	7,032	8,303	9,117	10,739	16,597	54.5	136.0
PBT	42,386	52,335	52,904	67,511	93,463	38.4	120.5
Exceptional item (as reported)	(1,302)	(24,555)	7,350	(8,537)	75,456		
Provision for tax	12,320	7,098	13,078	17,440	7,573	(56.6)	(38.5)
Minority interest	4,342	(34)	5,576	5,602	13,534	· · ·	. ,
PAT (reported)	24,422	20,716	41,600	35,932	1,47,812	311.4	505.2

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

# Exhibit 2: Bharti India – EBITDAaL rose 66.7% YoY/43.1% QoQ

INR mn	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Revenue	2,80,285	2,87,377	2,92,300	3,17,221	3,66,339	15.5	30.7
Access charges	14,799	15,478	16,012	15,187	16,469	8.4	11.3
% of revenue	5.3	5.4	5.5	4.8	4.5		
Licence fees & spectrum charges	25,130	25,906	26,239	29,198	30,122	3.2	19.9
% of revenue	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.2	8.2		
Network operations costs	57,206	58,394	58,281	61,083	70,232	15.0	22.8
% of revenue	20.4	20.3	19.9	19.3	19.2		
Employee costs	6,851	7,482	7,721	8,468	10,589	25.1	54.6
% of revenue	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.9		
Selling, general & other exp	26,296	27,185	28,056	30,335	(1,344)	(104.4)	(105.1)
% of revenue	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.6	(0.4)		
EBITDA	1,50,003	1,52,934	1,55,991	1,72,950	2,40,271	38.9	60.2
EBITDA Margin (%)	53.5	53.2	53.4	54.5	65.6		
EBITDAaL	1,33,193	1,36,058	1,38,047	1,55,133	2,22,009	43.1	66.7
EBITDAaL Margin (%)	47.5	47.3	47.2	48.9	60.6		
Depreciation	83,789	85,979	89,386	93,843	1,02,506	9.2	22.3
Interest	15,605	22,499	19,466	16,866	30,178	78.9	93.4
Share of profit from JV	7,032	8,303	9,117	10,739	16,597	54.5	136.0
Тах	9,443	8,907	9,257	12,546	29,395	134.3	211.3
Net income	29,020	24,616	26,814	40,138	55,443	38.1	91.0
NPM (%)	10.4	8.6	9.2	12.7	15.1		
EPS (INR)	5.0	4.3	4.7	7.0	9.6	38.1	91.0

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

#### Exhibit 3: Segmental performance - India mobile services EBITDA grew 9.1% QoQ/ 29.6% YoY

INR mn	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Mobile Services India							
Revenue	2,16,386	2,20,657	2,25,274	2,48,371	2,62,687	5.8	21.4
EBITDA	1,19,240	1,21,607	1,25,274	1,41,710	1,54,568	9.1	29.6
EBITDA margin (%)	55.1	55.1	55.6	57.1	58.8		
Home Services							
Revenue	12,718	13,155	13,670	14,321	15,092	5.4	18.7
EBITDA	6,384	6,566	6,867	7,203	7,465	3.6	16.9
EBITDA margin (%)	50.2	49.9	50.2	50.3	49.5		
Digital TV Services							
Revenue	7,837	7,693	7,771	7,586	7,607	0.3	(2.9)
EBITDA	4,285	4,391	4,402	4,243	4,425	4.3	3.3
EBITDA margin (%)	54.7	57.1	56.6	55.9	58.2		
Airtel Business							
Revenue	51,948	54,616	54,765	56,555	56,460	(0.2)	8.7
EBITDA	20,625	20,830	19,855	20,208	19,846	(1.8)	(3.8)
EBITDA margin (%)	39.7	38.1	36.3	35.7	35.2		
Non-mobile revenue	72,503	75,465	76,206	78,462	79,159	0.9	9.2
Non-mobile EBITDA	31,294	31,787	31,124	31,654	31,736	0.3	1.4

Source: I-Sec research, Company data



# Exhibit 4: India mobile services - ARPU rose 18% YoY

INR mn	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Subscribers (mn)	346	352	355	352	357	1.4	3.2
Prepaid subs (% of total subs)	93.5	93.4	93.3	93.0	92.9		
Blended churn rate (%)	2.9	2.4	2.8	3.2	2.5		
ARPU (INR)	208	209	211	233	245	5.3	18.0
MoU (mins)	1,127	1,158	1,128	1,135	1,160	2.2	3.0
Minutes on Network (mn)	11,60,820	12,09,564	11,95,080	11,99,795	12,33,306	2.8	6.2
Incremental mins (QoQ, mn)	13,107	48,743	(14,484)	4,715	33,511		
Revenue per minute (INR)	0.186	0.182	0.189	0.207	0.213	2.9	14.3
2G cell sites	3,07,663	3,18,171	3,24,498	3,29,543	3,34,757	1.6	8.8

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

#### Exhibit 5: Data service KPIs (India) - 4G subscriber base expanded by 6.5mn

	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Data Customer Base (mn)	253	261	267	271	278	2.4	9.7
Net adds (mn)	7.3	7.7	6.3	4.0	6.4		
As % of customer base	73.3	74.1	75.4	77.1	77.8		
Total MBs on the network (mn)	1,63,76,505	1,73,90,877	1,87,88,716	1,93,11,255	2,01,74,386	4.5	23.2
Data Usage/ customer (MB)	21,954	22,598	23,743	23,899	24,499	2.5	11.6
4G subs (m)	245	253	259	264	270	2.5	10.3
Net adds (m)	7.4	7.8	6.7	4.2	6.5		
As % of customer base	70.9	71.8	73.2	75.0	75.8		
3G/4G cell sites	9,05,556	9,31,854	9,47,377	9,62,565	9,78,832	1.7	8.1
Net add (3G/4G cell sites)	29,460	26,298	15,523	15,188	16,267		

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

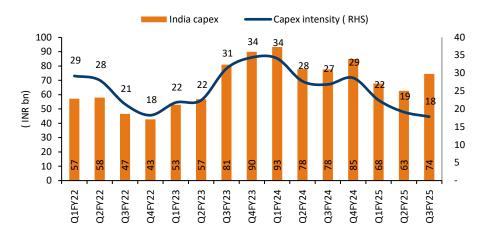
# Exhibit 6: Other services' KPIs - home services subscriber base rose 26.6% YoY

	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Home Services							
Subscribers ('000)	7,290	7,621	7,969	8,553	9,226	7.9	26.6
ARPU (INR)	583	577	572	566	554	(2.1)	(4.9)
DTH Services							
Subscribers ('000)	16,137	16,146	16,341	15,794	15,823	0.2	(1.9)
ARPU (INR)	163	160	159	158	160	1.1	(2.1)
Churn (%)	1.8	2.3	2.0	3.7	2.5		

Source: I-Sec research, Company data



# *PICICI Securities*



#### Exhibit 7: Bharti India capex intensity was 18% in Q3FY25

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

#### Exhibit 8: Bharti Africa – EBITDAaL rose 8.6% QoQ

USD mn	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Revenue	1,238	1,118	1,156	1,214	1,268	4.4	2.4
Access charges	72	63	61	61	58	(4.9)	(19.4)
% of revenue	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.6		
Licence fees & spectrum charges	59	61	62	65	66	1.5	11.9
% of revenue	4.8	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.2		
Network operations costs	225	210	231	232	245	5.6	8.9
% of revenue	18.2	18.8	20.0	19.1	19.3		
Employee costs	77	72	71	77	79	2.6	2.6
% of revenue	6.2	6.4	6.1	6.3	6.2		
Selling, general & other exp	201	195	212	219	231	5.5	14.9
% of revenue	16.2	17.4	18.3	18.0	18.2		
EBITDA	604	517	519	560	589	5.2	(2.5)
EBITDA Margin (%)	48.8	46.2	44.9	46.1	46.5		
EBITDAaL	464	384	403	429	466	8.6	0.4
EBITDAaL Margin (%)	37.5	34.3	34.9	35.3	36.8		
Depreciation	198	173	188	193	219	13.5	10.6
Interest	363	462	257	263	54		
Ταχ	28	(27)	43	56	147		
Net income/(loss)	(6)	(104)	7	24	133		

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

# Exhibit 9: Bharti Africa – subscriber base expanded 7.9% YoY

	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Subscribers (mn)	151	153	155	157	163	4.1	7.9
Blended churn rate (%)	4.3	4.5	4.0	4.7	3.8		
ARPU (USD)	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.2	(8.9)
Minutes on Network (mn)	1,28,828	1,30,210	1,34,209	1,39,756	1,48,361	6.2	15.2
RPM (US cent)	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	(1.6)	(11.1)
Data Customer Base (mn)	63	64	64	66	71	8.2	13.8
As % of customer base	41.5	42.1	41.4	42.1	43.8		
Total MBs on the network (mn)	10,09,040	10,91,329	11,89,097	13,89,481	15,19,263	9.3	50.6
Data Usage/ customer (MB)	5,510	5,735	6,157	7,132	7,434	4.2	34.9

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

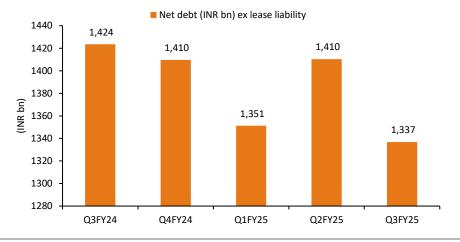


# Exhibit 10: Bharti consolidated cashflow

INR mn	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Operating cashflow	1,97,430	1,89,302	1,93,641	2,14,417	2,35,970	10.1	19.5
Less: Lease cost	19,646	18,212	18,471	19,667	16,321	(17.0)	(16.9)
Interest expenses	23,310	39,193	41,580	63,744	32,502	(49.0)	39.4
Operating cashflow	1,54,474	1,31,898	1,33,590	1,31,006	1,87,148	42.9	21.2
Less Capex (incl. spectrum)	98,723	93,973	98,751	95,562	83,524	(12.6)	(15.4)
FCF	55,751	37,924	34,839	35,445	1,03,623	192.4	85.9
Change in working capital	16,917	(14,053)	24,393	34,890	21,307		
Cashflow available for debt payment	72,668	23,871	59,232	70,335	1,24,931	77.6	71.9

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

## Exhibit 11: Net debt declined by INR 74bn to INR 1,337bn in Q3FY25



Source: I-Sec research, Company data

#### **Exhibit 12: Earnings revision**

		Revised		Earlier			% change		
INR mn	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
India KPIs						ĺ			
Subs (mn)	360	368	376	360	368	376	-	-	-
ARPU (INR)	235	268	295	235	268	295	-	-	-
India financial									
Revenue	13,43,301	16,52,787	18,41,399	12,88,704	14,86,359	16,61,696	4.2	11.2	10.8
EBITDA	7,61,333	10,16,885	11,45,612	7,21,383	8,57,778	9,80,066	5.5	18.5	16.9
EBITDA margin (%)	56.7	61.5	62.2	56.0	57.7	59.0			
РАТ	1,46,846	4,18,239	3,68,235	3,64,237	2,71,957	3,70,787	(59.7)	53.8	(0.7)
Africa financial (USD mn)									
Revenue	4,675	4,862	5,008	4,675	4,862	5,008	-	-	-
EBITDA	2,204	2,302	2,381	2,204	2,302	2,381	-	_	-
EBITDA margin (%)	47.1	47.3	47.5	47.1	47.3	47.5			
PAT	533	561	576	533	561	576	-	-	-
Bharti Airtel Consolidated									
Revenue	17,22,063	20,59,918	22,74,522	16,67,466	18,93,490	20,94,819	3.3	8.8	8.6
EBITDA	9,43,179	12,12,958	13,54,896	9,03,229	10,53,851	11,89,350	4.4	15.1	13.9
EBITDA margin (%)	54.8	58.9	59.6	54.2	55.7	56.8			
PAT	1,91,841	4,67,076	4,19,940	4,09,231	3,20,794	4,22,492	(53.1)	45.6	(0.6)
EPS (INR)	33.3	43.5	68.3	36.4	52.2	68.8	(8.3)	(16.7)	(0.6)

Source: I-Sec research



#### Exhibit 13: SoTP-based valuation

INR mn	FY26E
India business (ex-Tower)	
EBITDA (adj. IND AS 116)	8,50,497
Multiple (x)	13.0
EV	1,10,56,462
Less net debt	73,311
Equity value(a)	1,09,83,151
Tower business (DCF from Indus model)	
EV	9,70,268
Less net debt	(59,020)
Equity value	10,29,288
Stake (%)	50
Attributable Equity value(b)	5,14,644
Airtel Africa	
EBITDA (adj. IND AS 116)	1,63,999
Multiple (x)	4.0
EV	6,55,997
Less net debt	44,454
Equity value	6,11,543
Stake (%)	53
Bharti attributable Equity value(c)	3,25,341
Bharti Airtel Equity value	1,18,23,136
Outstanding shares (mn)	6,145
Equity value per share (INR)	1,925

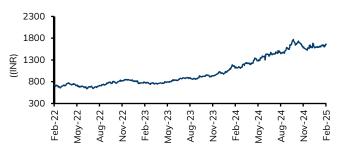
Source: I-Sec research

# Exhibit 14: Shareholding pattern

%	Jun'24	Sep'24	Dec'24
Promoters	53.2	53.2	53.2
Institutional investors	43.8	43.9	44.0
MFs and other	11.0	10.7	11.4
Fls/ Banks	1.2	1.2	1.2
Insurance Cos.	6.5	6.3	6.5
Flls	25.1	25.7	24.9
Others	3.0	2.9	2.8

Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research

#### **Exhibit 15: Price chart**



Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research



# **Financial Summary**

## Exhibit 16: Profit & Loss

#### (INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	14,99,824	17,22,063	20,59,918	22,74,522
Operating Expenses	7,16,906	7,78,885	8,46,960	9,19,626
EBITDA	7,82,918	9,43,179	12,12,958	13,54,897
EBITDA Margin (%)	52.2	54.8	58.9	59.6
Depreciation & Amortization	3,95,376	4,65,009	5,27,861	5,56,419
EBIT	3,87,542	4,78,170	6,85,097	7,98,477
Interest expenditure	2,26,477	1,74,502	1,60,911	1,29,143
Other Non-operating Income	14,354	-	-	-
Recurring PBT	1,75,419	3,03,668	5,24,186	6,69,335
Profit / (Loss) from Associates	27,094	16,748	(1,131)	(794)
Less: Taxes	41,210	78,179	1,79,779	1,66,142
PAT	1,34,209	2,25,489	3,44,407	5,03,192
Less: Minority Interest	10,910	50,396	76,200	82,459
Extraordinaries (Net)	(75,723)	-	2,00,000	-
Net Income (Reported)	74,670	1,91,841	4,67,076	4,19,940
Net Income (Adjusted)	1,31,311	1,91,841	3,17,476	4,19,940

Source Company data, I-Sec research

# Exhibit 17: Balance sheet

#### (INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Total Current Assets	5,80,066	5,35,825	7,65,994	9,19,433
of which cash & cash eqv.	1,63,399	1,15,979	3,20,759	4,61,273
Total Current Liabilities & Provisions	10,79,652	10,96,209	11,85,530	12,55,023
Net Current Assets	(4,99,586)	(5,60,384)	(4,19,535)	(3,35,590)
Investments	3,16,023	3,13,328	3,13,328	3,13,328
Net Fixed Assets	23,77,688	24,65,048	24,60,818	24,15,685
ROU Assets	5,59,367	5,59,367	5,59,367	5,59,367
Capital Work-in-Progress	1,69,041	1,69,041	1,69,041	1,69,041
Total Intangible Assets	2,65,017	2,65,017	2,65,017	2,65,017
Other assets	1,54,721	1,66,933	1,96,898	2,15,931
Deferred Tax Assets	-	-	-	-
Total Assets	31,73,230	32,09,309	33,75,892	34,33,739
Liabilities				
Borrowings	15,19,165	13,69,165	8,69,165	7,19,165
Deferred Tax Liability	(1,67,310)	(1,15,636)	20,238	20,238
Provisions	-	-	-	-
Other Liabilities	1,28,978	1,36,250	1,62,126	1,78,562
Equity Share Capital	28,766	28,766	30,726	30,726
Reserves & Surplus	7,91,422	8,68,158	12,94,832	14,03,784
Total Net Worth	8,20,188	8,96,924	13,25,558	14,34,510
Minority Interest	2,35,451	2,85,847	3,62,047	4,44,506
Total Liabilities	31,73,230	32,09,309	33,75,892	34,33,739

Source Company data, I-Sec research

#### **Exhibit 18: Quarterly trend**

#### (INR mn, year ending March)

	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24
Net Sales	3,75,991	3,85,064	4,14,733	4,51,293
% growth (YOY)	4.4	2.8	12.0	19.1
EBITDA	1,93,648	1,97,077	2,18,462	2,45,966
Margin %	51.5	51.2	52.7	54.5
Other Income	(1,834)	(1,761)	(1,048)	(3,109)
Extraordinaries	(24,555)	7,350	(8,537)	75,456
Adjusted Net Profit	20,716	41,600	35,932	1,47,812

Source Company data, I-Sec research

#### **Exhibit 19: Cashflow statement**

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Operating Cashflow	7,64,846	9,33,421	13,67,922	11,87,960
Working Capital Changes	24,136	8,438	59,842	53,972
Capital Commitments	(5,22,062)	(4,62,474)	(4,14,419)	(3,96,983)
Free Cashflow	2,66,920	4,79,386	10,13,345	8,44,950
Other investing cashflow	20,023	2,695	-	-
Cashflow from Investing Activities	20,023	2,695	-	-
Issue of Share Capital	6	-	1,57,290	-
Interest Cost	(1,40,263)	-	-	-
Inc (Dec) in Borrowings	(17,591)	(1,50,000)	(5,00,000)	(1,50,000)
Dividend paid	(41,845)	(1,15,104)	(1,86,953)	(2,93,958)
Others	3,521	(1,74,502)	(1,69,690)	(1,46,173)
Cash flow from Financing Activities	(2,77,785)	(5,29,500)	(8,08,566)	(7,04,435)
Chg. in Cash & Bank balance	9,158	(47,420)	2,04,779	1,40,515
Closing cash & balance	90,521	1,15,979	3,20,759	4,61,273

Source Company data, I-Sec research

# Exhibit 20: Key ratios

(Year ending March)

(·····)				
	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Per Share Data (INR)				
Reported EPS	22.8	33.3	51.7	68.3
Adjusted EPS (Diluted)	22.8	33.3	51.7	68.3
Cash EPS	81.2	98.5	111.6	140.3
Dividend per share (DPS)	8.0	20.0	30.4	47.8
Book Value per share (BV)	142.6	155.9	215.7	233.4
Dividend Payout (%)	35.1	60.0	58.9	70.0
Growth (%)				
Net Sales	7.8	14.8	19.6	10.4
EBITDA	9.8	20.5	28.6	11.7
EPS (INR)	46.4	46.1	54.9	32.3
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	73.5	50.3	32.5	24.5
P/CEPS	20.6	17.0	15.0	12.0
P/BV	11.8	10.8	7.8	7.2
EV / EBITDA	14.9	12.2	9.5	8.3
EV / Sales	7.8	6.7	5.6	4.9
Dividend Yield (%)	0.5	1.2	1.8	2.9
Operating Ratios				
Gross Profit Margins (%)	-	-	-	-
EBITDA Margins (%)	52.2	54.8	58.9	59.6
Effective Tax Rate (%)	23.5	25.7	34.3	24.8
Net Profit Margins (%)	8.8	11.1	15.4	18.5
NWC / Total Assets (%)	(15.7)	(17.5)	(12.4)	(9.8)
Net Debt / Equity (x)	1.6	1.4	0.4	0.2
Net Debt / EBITDA (x)	2.5	2.0	1.0	0.7
Profitability Ratios				
RoCE (%)	11.2	13.9	17.6	23.3
RoE (%)	16.5	22.3	28.6	30.4
RoIC (%)	15.7	19.7	29.3	36.5
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	3.9	4.4	5.0	5.3
Inventory Turnover Days	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7
Receivables Days	11.5	10.8	10.8	10.8
Payables Days	85.5	74.5	67.2	67.2
Source Company data 1-Sec resea	urch			

Source Company data, I-Sec research

# *PICICI Securities*

This report may be distributed in Singapore by ICICI Securities, Inc. (Singapore branch). Any recipients of this report in Singapore should contact ICICI Securities, Inc. (Singapore branch) in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, this report. The contact details of ICICI Securities, Inc. (Singapore branch) are as follows: Address: 10 Collyer Quay, #40-92 Ocean Financial Tower, Singapore - 049315, Tel: +65 6232 2451 and email: navneet\_babbar@icicisecuritiesinc.com, Rishi\_agrawal@icicisecuritiesinc.com and Kadambari\_balachandran@icicisecuritiesinc.com.

"In case of eligible investors based in Japan, charges for brokerage services on execution of transactions do not in substance constitute charge for research reports and no charges are levied for providing research reports to such investors."

New I-Sec investment ratings (all ratings based on absolute return; All ratings and target price refers to 12-month performance horizon, unless mentioned otherwise) BUY: >15% return; ADD: 5% to 15% return; HOLD: Negative 5% to Positive 5% return; REDUCE: Negative 5% to Negative 15% return; SELL: < negative 15% return

#### ANALYST CERTIFICATION

I/We, Sanjesh Jain, PGDM; Mohit Mishra, MBA, CA; Aparajita Chakraborty, M.Sc. (Finance); 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. Analysts are not registered as research analysts by FINRA and are not associated persons of the ICICI Securities Inc. 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. Registered Office Address: ICICI Venture House, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025. CIN: L67120MH1995PLC086241, Tel: (91 22) 6807 7100. ICICI Securities is Sebi registered stock broker, merchant banker, investment adviser, portfolio manager, Research Analyst and Alternative Investment Fund. 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 – INH0000009909. ICICI Securities Limited SEBI Registration is INZ000183631 for stock broker. ICICI Securities is a 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.

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 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 Institutional 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 Retail 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 in 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.

This report has not been prepared by ICICI Securities, Inc. However, ICICI Securities, Inc. has reviewed the report and, in so far as it includes current or historical information, it is believed to be reliable, although its accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed.



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

Registration granted by SEBI and certification from NISM in no way guarantee performance of the intermediary or provide any assurance of returns to investors. None of the research recommendations promise or guarantee any assured, minimum or risk free return to the investors.

Name of the Compliance officer (Research Analyst): Mr. Atul Agrawal, Contact number: 022-40701000, **E-mail Address** : <u>complianceofficer@icicisecurities.com</u> For any queries or grievances: <u>Mr. Bhavesh Soni</u> Email address: <u>headservicequality@icicidirect.com</u> Contact Number: 18601231122