

Telecommunication Services

India

Sector View: Attractive NIFTY-50: 24,045 June 28, 2024

R-Jio takes the lead with ~20% tariff hikes

R-Jio has announced new unlimited plans, raising tariffs by ~17-25% on popular pre-paid plans and by ~17% on entry-level postpaid plans. The tariff hike is largely in line with our expectations (20% from June 2024) and is already built into our estimates. Further, R-Jio has also restricted unlimited 5G data usage to 2GB/day and above plans (versus Rs239 and above plans earlier), which could potentially lead to up-trading by higher data consumers. While the quantum of tariff hikes is in line with our estimates, R-Jio taking the lead in raising tariffs and shifting focus to improving returns on investments is a sentimental positive. We expect Bharti and Vi to also raise tariffs soon.

R-Jio hikes tariffs by ~17-25% on popular plans; largely in line with expectations

After a long pause (since December 2021), R-Jio has taken the lead in raising unlimited prepaid plan tariffs. R-Jio has increased tariffs by ~17-25% on popular prepaid plans and by ~17% (or Rs50/month) on entry-level postpaid plans. However, R-Jio has kept the tariffs for Jiophone and JioBharat phone users unchanged. The blended tariff increase of ~20% is broadly in line with our expectations and is already built into our estimates. The new tariffs are effective July 3, 2024, and the complete flow-through of tariff hikes is expected by December 2024. We expect Bharti and Vi to also raise tariffs soon.

R-Jio taking a lead on tariff hikes bodes well for the industry

In the last two rounds of tariff hikes, Vi (Dec 2019) and Bharti (Dec 2021) took the lead, while R-Jio was the last one to raise tariffs. Unlike, Bharti and Vi, who have been very vocal on the need for industry tariff repair, R-Jio has not been upfront about the need for industry-wide tariff hikes. However, as we noted earlier, the need for R-Jio to raise tariffs was equally (if not more) pressing, given: 1) its larger 5G investments; and 2) further moderation in RoCEs and FCF. While the quantum and timing of tariff hikes is in line with our estimates, R-Jio taking the lead on raising tariffs is a sentimental positive for the telecom industry.

Unlimited 5G allowance cap to 2GB/d and above plans could lead to up-trading

Further, R-Jio has now restricted unlimited 5G data allowance to 2GB/day and above plans versus Rs239 (1.5GB/d-28 days) and above plans earlier. This move could potentially lead to up-trading to the 2GB/day plan by higher data-consuming users and provide some monetization on 5G.

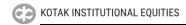
Overall customer outgo on telecom services could increase by ~Rs475 bn

If Bharti and Vi were to follow R-Jio with hikes in similar quantum, overall customer outgo on telecom services (inclusive of tax) could increase by ~Rs475 bn annually (assuming not much down-trading/subscriber churn). Telecom spends as % of GDP would only inch up to 0.88% (from ~0.8%), but still significantly below ~1.4% of GDP prior to the R-Jio launch. Incremental revenue and EBITDA for the three private operators could inch up by ~Rs400 bn (18%) and ~Rs300 bn (~25%), respectively. Our earnings and FV remain unchanged for now, as we await the extent of tariff hikes from Bharti and Vi.

Related Research

- →2024 spectrum auction concludes; focus
- → More frequent tariff hikes likely; Bharti
- → A deep dive into Indian telcos' cost structure

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R-Jio has raised tariffs by ~17-25% across popular prepaid and entry-level post-paid plans

Exhibit 1: R-Jio: Comparison of existing and new plans

Implied plan ARPU Validity Price (Rs) Hike (%) Plan benefits (Rs/month) Prepaid **Existing Existing** New New 21.9 2GB 155 189 143 174 209 249 19.1 192 229 1GB/d 239 299 25.1 220 275 1.5GB/d 28 days 299 349 16.7 275 321 2GB/d 349 399 14.3 321 367 2.5GB/d 399 449 12.5 367 413 3 GB/d 479 579 220 20.9 267 1.5GB/d 56 days 533 629 18.0 245 290 2GB/d 479 395 21.3 121 147 6GB 666 799 20.0 204 245 1.5GB/d 84 days 719 859 19.5 221 264 2GB/d 999 1,199 20.0 307 368 3GB/d 1,559 1,899 21.8 120 146 24GB Annual 2,999 3,599 212 254 20.0 2.5GB/d 15 19 26.7 1GB Base plan 25 29 16.0 2GB 61 69 13.1 6GB Postpaid Existing Existing New New 16.7 299 349 299 349 .30GB Monthly 399 449 12.5 399 449 75GB

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Annual customer outgo on telecom services could potentially increase by ~Rs475 bn after tariff hikes

Exhibit 2: Potential annual increase in customer outgo (including tax) on telecom services (Rs bn)

	R-Jio	Bharti	Vi	Top 3
Paying wireless subs (mn)	470	352	213	1,035
Non-data / Jiophone subs (mn)	80	91	75	247
Subs subjected to higher tariffs (mn)	390	261	137	789
Increase in customer outgo (inc. tax, Rs/month)	50	50	50	50
Increase in customer outgo (inc. tax, Rs bn)	234	157	82	473

Source: Companies, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Given the largest subscriber base, R-Jio would benefit the most from tariff hikes; while Vi would benefit the most in percentage terms, given its lower base

Exhibit 3: Potential wireless revenue, ARPU and EBITDA uptick on tariff hikes

	R-Jio	Bharti	Vi	Top 3
Paying wireless subs (mn)	470	352	213	1,035
Non-data / Jiophone subs (mn)	80	91	75	247
Subs subjected to higher tariffs (mn)	390	261	137	789
Blended monthly tariff hike (net of GST, Rs/month)	42	42	42	42
Incremental annual revenue uptick (Rs bn)	199	133	70	401
as a % of 4QFY24 exit wireless revenue	19	15	19	18
Incremental ARPU uptick due to hikes (Rs/month)	35	31	27	
as a % of 4QFY24 wireless ARPU	20	15	19	
Incremental annual EBITDA uptick (Rs bn)	149	99	52	301
as a % of 4QFY24 wireless EBITDA	27	20	30	25



Exhibit 4: Key assumptions for Bharti, March fiscal year-ends, 2019-27E

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027
India wireless business									
Paying subscriber base ('000s)	282,640	283,667	321,374	326,043	335,412	352,253	363,753	374,753	384,753
Net monthly additions ('000s)	(1,796)	86	3,142	389	781	1,403	958	917	833
Data subscribers ('000s)	115,147	148,578	188,635	208,448	232,678	260,847	289,847	316,847	341,753
Net monthly additions ('000s)	2,422	2,786	3,338	1,651	2,019	2,347	2,417	2,250	2,076
Wireless ARPU (Rs/sub/month)	116	136	153	160	189	204	235	261	293
Change (%)	(12.2)	16.6	12.9	4.3	18.5	7.8	15.4	10.9	12.4
Data volumes (bn MB)	11,733	21,020	32,541	45,203	54,148	65,978	78,557	92,397	108,567
Change (%)	200.7	79.2	54.8	38.9	19.8	21.8	19.1	17.6	17.5
Data consumption (MB/sub/month)	9,718	13,284	16,083	18,973	20,458	22,281	23,775	25,383	27,474
Change (%)	114.4	36.7	21.1	18.0	7.8	8.9	6.7	6.8	8.2
Voice traffic (bn mins)	2,811	3,035	3,603	4,104	4,348	4,667	4,992	5,242	5,504
Change (%)	44.4	7.9	18.7	13.9	6.0	7.3	7.0	5.0	5.0
MOU (min/sub/month)	798	893	992	1,056	1,096	1,131	1,162	1,183	1,208
Change (%)	42.2	11.9	11.1	6.4	3.7	3.2	2.7	1.8	2.1
Homes business									
EoP subscriber base ('000s)	2,270	2,414	3,067	4,483	6,046	7,621	8,971	10,221	11,271
Net monthly additions ('000s)	8.2	12.0	54.4	118.0	130.3	131.2	112.5	104.2	87.5
Implied ARPU (Rs/month)	840	799	710	671	641	606	576	553	538
Change (%)	(14.2)	(4.9)	(11.1)	(5.5)	(4.5)	(5.4)	(4.9)	(4.0)	(2.7
FWA EoP subscriber base ('000s)						_	1.0	2.2	3.6
Net monthly additions ('000s)						_	0.1	0.1	0.1
Implied ARPU (Rs/month)							799.0	799.0	799.0
Change (%)								_	_
Airtel DTH*									
EoP subscriber base ('000s)	15,392	16,613	17,716	16,028	15,946	16,146	15,946	15,746	15,546
Net monthly additions ('000s)	99.4	101.7	92.0	(140.7)	(6.8)	16.7	(16.7)	(16.7)	(16.7
Implied ARPU (Rs/month)	231	152	148	156	154	158	160	160	160
Change (%)	(0.5)	(34.1)	(2.5)	5.0	(1.4)	3.0	1.0	(0.0)	(0.0
Capex (Rs mn)									
India (ex-spectrum)	233,793	198,003	192,570	204,433	280,567	333,526	310,630	294,982	300,111
As % of revenues	39.1	31.0	26.1	24.9	28.7	30.4	24.0	20.1	17.9
Consolidated (ex-spectrum)	286,872	252,224	237,918	253,324	341,946	394,821	372,189	358,162	367,885
As % of revenues	35.5	28.8	23.6	21.7	24.6	26.3	21.9	18.5	16.7
Consolidated overall	336,872	252,224	237,918	436,399	772,796	394,821	412,189	358,162	367,885
As % of revenues	41.7	28.8	23.6	37.4	55.5	26.3	24.3	18.5	16.7

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

For every Rs10/month change in ARPU, FY2026E consolidated EBITDA could change by Rs28 bn (\sim 2.6%) and for every 10 mn paying subs change, FY2026E consolidated EBITDA could change by Rs10 bn (\sim 1%)

Exhibit 5: Sensitivity of FY2026E consolidated EBITDA to FY2026E India wireless ARPU and paying wireless subs, March fiscal year-ends

FY2026E India wireless ARPU (Rs)

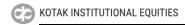
FY2026E India wireless paying subs (mn)

	241	251	261	271	281
355	1,012	1,039	1,066	1,094	1,121
365	1,021	1,049	1,077	1,105	1,132
375	1,030	1,059	1,087	1,115	1,143
385	1,040	1,068	1,097	1,126	1,154
395	1,049	1,078	1,107	1,136	1,165

Exhibit 6: Segment-wise revenue, EBITDA, margin and capex trends and forecasts, March fiscal year-ends

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E
Segmental revenue (Rs bn)									
India	599	639	737	821	979	1,097	1,295	1,470	1,680
Wireless	416	460	556	629	759	850	1,021	1,166	1,347
Homes	22	22	23	30	40	50	62	79	97
DTH	41	29	31	32	29	30	31	30	30
Airtel Business	125	132	144	161	186	208	226	244	262
Africa	215	242	289	351	423	412	412	473	539
Consolidated	808	875	1,006	1,165	1,391	1,500	1,699	1,933	2,208
Eliminations	(84)	(82)	(40)	(41)	(49)	(55)	(56)	(63)	(71)
Segmental EBITDA (Rs bn)									
India	179	263	339	410	511	590	735	866	1,027
Wireless	94	170	243	312	401	468	598	710	855
Homes	11	11	13	16	20	25	32	41	51
DTH	16	20	21	21	17	17	17	16	15
Airtel Business	41	43	55	62	74	82	90	100	107
Africa	84	107	133	172	207	201	199	230	264
Consolidated	258	366	454	575	713	783	926	1,087	1,281
Eliminations	(15)	(22)	(11)	(7)	(6)	(9)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Segmental EBITDA margin	(%)								
India	29.9	41.2	46.1	49.9	52.2	53.8	56.8	58.9	61.1
Wireless	22.7	36.9	43.7	49.6	52.8	55.0	58.6	60.9	63.4
Homes	48.3	50.4	57.6	52.3	50.6	50.1	51.1	52.1	52.8
DTH	38.3	68.3	68.0	66.6	58.9	56.3	54.7	52.5	50.1
Airtel Business	32.6	32.2	38.2	38.7	39.7	39.4	39.9	41.1	40.9
Africa	38.9	44.3	46.1	49.1	49.0	48.8	48.3	48.7	49.0
Consolidated	32.0	41.8	45.1	49.4	51.2	52.2	54.5	56.2	58.0
Segmental Capex ex-spect	trum (Rs bn)								
India	242	207	196	204	281	334	311	295	300
Wireless	201	151	147	145	205	253	221	202	207
Homes	8	6	11	17	22	29	41	41	41
DTH	11	11	13	13	14	14	15	15	15
Airtel Business	14	30	22	32	40	38	34	37	37
Africa	44	46	45	49	60	61	61	63	68
Consolidated	287	254	245	257	342	395	372	358	368

Telecommunication Services

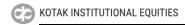


We are broadly in line with consensus on wireless ARPU, but above consensus on better flow-through of tariff hikes

Exhibit 7: Comparison of KIE and consensus estimates for Bharti Airtel

		KIE		Co	nsensus		KIE ve	rsus cons	ensus
-	2025E	2026E	2027E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2025E	2026E	2027E
India wireless									
EoP subs (mn)	364	375	385	362	370	376	0.5	1.4	2.5
ARPU (Rs/month)	235	261	293	236	263	286	(0.1)	(0.6)	2.5
Revenue (Rs bn)	1,021	1,166	1,347	1,011	1,154	1,281	0.9	1.1	5.2
EBITDA (Rs bn)	598	710	855	573	664	749	4.3	6.9	14.1
EBITDA margin (%)	58.6	60.9	63.4	56.7	57.6	58.5	190 bps	334 bps	497 bps
Capex (Rs bn)	221	202	207	229	212	206	(3.8)	(4.5)	0.6
Homes									
EoP subs (mn)	9.0	10.2	11.3	9.1	10.6	12.3	(1.3)	(3.7)	(8.2)
ARPU (Rs/month)	576	553	538	583	581	582	(1.1)	(4.7)	(7.5)
Revenue (Rs bn)	62	79	97	58	69	80	6.3	15.1	21.5
EBITDA (Rs bn)	32	41	51	30	35	41	6.3	17.0	26.1
EBITDA margin (%)	51.1	52.1	52.8	51.0	51.3	50.9	3 bps	83 bps	194 bps
DTH									
EoP subs (mn)	15.9	15.7	15.5	16.4	16.6	16.7	(2.5)	(5.1)	(6.9)
ARPU (Rs/month)	160	160	160	161	163	163	(0.5)	(1.8)	(2.2)
Revenue (Rs bn)	31	30	30	31	32	33	(1.8)	(5.7)	(8.0)
EBITDA (Rs bn)	17	16	15	18	18	19	(4.8)	(12.1)	(19.6)
EBITDA margin (%)	54.7	52.5	50.1	56.4	56.4	57.4	(169)bps	(385)bps	(724)bps
Airtel Business									
Revenue (Rs bn)	226	244	262	231	255	284	(2.4)	(4.4)	(7.6)
EBITDA (Rs bn)	90	100	107	91	102	113	(1.6)	(2.0)	(5.6)
EBITDA margin (%)	39.9	41.1	40.9	39.6	40.1	40.0	35 bps	101 bps	87 bps
India									
Revenue (Rs bn)	1,295	1,470	1,680	1,289	1,460	1,626	0.5	0.7	3.3
EBITDA (Rs bn)	735	866	1,027	714	825	930	2.9	5.0	10.4
EBITDA margin (%)	56.8	58.9	61.1	55.4	56.5	57.2	135 bps	242 bps	391 bps
Airtel Africa									
Revenue (US\$ mn)	4,939	5,629	6,382	4,923	5,403	5,867	0.3	4.2	8.8
EBITDA (US\$ mn)	2,384	2,739	3,126	2,362	2,611	2,841	0.9	4.9	10.0
EBITDA margin (%)	48.3	48.7	49.0	48.0	48.3	48.4	30 bps	32 bps	56 bps
Capex (US\$ mn)	735	750	800	762	795	837	(3.5)	(5.7)	(4.5)
Consolidated									
Revenue (Rs bn)	1,699	1,933	2,208	1,682	1,895	2,086	1.0	2.0	5.8
EBITDA (Rs bn)	926	1,087	1,281	900	1,026	1,149	2.9	5.9	11.5
EBITDA margin (%)	54.5	56.2	58.0	53.5	54.2	55.1	100 bps	208 bps	297 bps
PAT (Rs bn)	228.5	323.6	412.6	217.9	288.3	373.2	4.8	12.2	10.6
EPS (Rs/share)	37.8	53.5	68.2	37.9	52.9	67.7	(0.4)	1.1	0.8
Capex (Rs bn)	372	358	368	370	351	363	0.7	2.1	1.2

Source: Visible Alpha, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates



We ascribe an enterprise value of Rs7.9 tn (or Rs1,300/share) to Bharti's India wireless business in our base case (implies \sim 9.2X FY2027E EBITDA)

Exhibit 8: Calculation of Bharti's India wireless enterprise value using discounted cash flow analysis in base-case scenario (Rs bn)

	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E	2033E	2034E	2035E	2036E
Assumptions													
Paying subscriber base (mn)	352	364	375	385	393	400	407	413	418	422	425		
Net adds	16.8	11.5	11.0	10.0	8.0	7.5	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0		
ARPU (Rs/month)	204	235	261	293	315	334	351	365	378	389	400		
у-у	7.8	15.4	10.9	12.4	7.5	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.7		
DCF model													
EBITDA	468	598	710	855	942	1,020	1,091	1,154	1,211	1,262	1,307		
Adjusted tax expense	(117)	(149)	(178)	(214)	(236)	(255)	(273)	(289)	(303)	(315)	(327)		
Change in working capital	7	14	12	15	11	10	9	8	7	6	6		
Operating cash flow	358	462	545	656	718	775	828	873	916	953	986		
Capital expenditure	(253)	(261)	(202)	(207)	(260)	(270)	(280)	(285)	(290)	(295)	(300)		
Free cash flow	105	202	342	449	458	505	548	589	625	657	686	714	742
Discounted cash flow-now		184	283	336	310	309	303	295	283	270	255		
Discounted cash flow-1 year forward			312	371	342	341	335	326	313	298	281	265	
Discounted cash flow-2 year forward				410	378	377	370	360	346	329	311	293	276
		Now	+1-year	+2-years									
Discount rate (%)		10.5%	10.5%	10.5%									
Total PV of free cash flow		2,827	3,185	3,450									
Terminal value assumption													

Discount rate (%)	10.5%	10.5%	10.5%								
Total PV of free cash flow	2,827	3,185	3,450								
Terminal value assumption											
Growth in perpetuity	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	Sen	sitivity of 12	-month fair	value to W	ACC and pe	rpetual gro	wth	
FCF in terminal year	686	714	742				Perpetual g	rowth (%)			
Exit FCF multiple (X)	16.0	16.0	16.0			2.0%	3.0%	4.0%	5.0%	6.0%	
Exit EV/EBITDA multiple (X)	8.4	8.7	9.1	$\overline{}$	9.5%	1,247	1,371	1,541	1,785	2,169	
Terminal value	10,978	11,417	11,873	%	10.0%	1,166	1,270	1,410	1,605	1,899	
PV of terminal value	4,076	4,239	4,408	္ပ	10.5%	1,094	1,183	1,300	1,459	1,688	
Value of India wireless	6,903	7,424	7,859	¥	11.0%	1,030	1,107	1,205	1,336	1,520	
Implied EV/EBITDA	11.5	10.5	9.2	_	11.5%	973	1,039	1,123	1,232	1,382	
Enterprise value (Rs bn)	6,903	7,424	7,859								
Shares outstanding (mn)	6,047	6,047	6,047								
EV/share for India wireless (Rs/share)	1,141	1,228	1,300								

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Our SoTP-based Fair Value for Bharti is Rs1,410

Exhibit 9: Bharti's sum-of-the-parts valuation based on March 2026 estimates

	Valuation base	(Rs bn)	Multiple	(X)	Valua	tion
	EBITDA	Other	EBITDA	Other	(Rs bn)	(Rs/share)
India business						
India wireless (including Hexacom)	746		10.5 DC	F implied	7,859	1,300
Less: Hexacom minority (30% minority)	51		10.5 lmp	lied at CMP	162	27
Homes	44		10.5 DC	F implied	461	76
India homes + wireless attributable value					8,157	1,349
DTH	16		5.0		79	13
Enterprise	102		9.0		916	151
Indus Towers attributable value		452		0.75	339	56
Other investments		148		1	148	24
India business enterprise value					9,639	1,594
India business net debt (including leases)					1,207	200
Network I2I perps					125	21
India business equity value (a)					8,307	1,374
International business						
Airtel Africa attributable value		266		0.75	199	33
Robi Axiata attributable value		26		0.75	20	3
International business equity value (b)					219	36
Bharti Airtel Fair Value (c) = (a) + (b)					8,526	1,410

For every Rs10/month change in ARPU, FV could change by Rs50/share (\sim 3.7%) and for every 10 mn paying subs change, FV could change by Rs18/share (\sim 1.3%)

Exhibit 10: Sensitivity of FV to FY2026E India wireless ARPU and paying wireless subs, March fiscal year-ends

FY2026E India wireless ARPU (Rs)

FY2026E India wireless paying subs (mn)

	241	251	261	271	281
355	1,272	1,323	1,373	1,423	1,473
365	1,290	1,340	1,391	1,442	1,493
375	1,307	1,358	1,410	1,461	1,513
385	1,324	1,376	1,428	1,481	1,533
395	1,341	1,394	1,447	1,500	1,553

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Exhibit 11: Bharti's condensed financials. Ind AS	March fined year and 2010 27F (Damn)
EXHIBIT II. BHALLS CONGENSEU IIIIANCIAIS. IIIU AS	. March fiscal vear-enus. 2016-27E (RS IIII)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E
Profit and loss statement										
Revenues	826,388	807,802	875,390	1,006,158	1,165,469	1,391,448	1,499,824	1,699,314	1,932,537	2,207,701
EBITDA	300,791	258,189	366,095	453,717	575,339	712,735	782,918	925,631	1,086,851	1,281,079
EBIT	108,360	44,714	89,199	159,673	244,432	348,417	387,542	499,941	621,948	757,068
PBT	29,992	(50,162)	(32,731)	15,191	83,614	164,784	175,419	305,158	456,420	614,208
Recurring PAT	18,921	(25,193)	(36,390)	(28,758)	25,564	90,157	113,053	228,472	323,587	412,572
Recurring EPS (Rs/share)	4.7	(6.3)	(6.7)	(5.2)	4.6	15.9	19.7	37.8	53.5	68.2
Balance sheet										
Total equity	783,483	849,480	1,021,295	812,266	919,350	1,064,443	1,055,639	1,373,810	1,620,735	1,959,970
Borrowings	1,141,676	1,254,283	1,176,190	1,297,899	1,329,145	1,655,448	1,519,165	1,387,131	1,212,694	1,082,674
Other liabilities	580,657	648,212	1,410,305	1,350,113	1,388,065	1,746,441	1,870,506	1,845,569	1,959,831	2,085,309
Total equity and liabilities	2,505,816	2,751,975	3,607,790	3,460,278	3,636,560	4,466,332	4,445,310	4,606,510	4,793,260	5,127,953
Net fixed assets	758,168	903,661	917,545	901,711	948,111	1,062,534	1,155,198	1,198,401	1,207,197	1,187,997
Net intangibles	1,211,348	1,200,996	1,158,784	1,102,233	1,229,983	1,659,192	1,487,507	1,430,804	1,315,267	1,178,342
Cash and equivalents	135,684	127,287	296,606	175,442	143,557	181,231	166,094	328,722	504,884	869,022
Other assets	400,616	520,031	1,234,855	1,280,892	1,314,909	1,563,375	1,636,511	1,648,583	1,765,912	1,892,592
Total assets	2,505,816	2,751,975	3,607,790	3,460,278	3,636,560	4,466,332	4,445,310	4,606,510	4,793,260	5,127,953
Net debt (including leases)	1,003,748	1,129,813	1,209,372	1,552,290	1,620,214	2,149,664	2,047,384	1,622,585	1,321,008	884,672
Cash flow statement										
Operating cash flow	232,153	124,531	23,554	346,550	342,150	510,367	570,167	758,414	759,833	917,858
Capex	(267,262)	(306,495)	(222,592)	(335,816)	(434,690)	(388,184)	(520,834)	(412,189)	(358,162)	(367,885)
Other income	16,039	16,286	4,748	27,370	3,963	17,500	6,743	15,897	21,497	34,897
Free cash flow	(19,070)	(165,678)	(194,290)	38,104	(88,577)	139,683	56,076	362,121	423,168	584,869
Key ratios										
EBITDA margin (%)	36.4	32.0	41.8	45.1	49.4	51.2	52.2	54.5	56.2	58.0
Avg. RoAE (%)	1.4	0.5	NM	NM	4.9	8.4	7.0	18.8	21.6	23.0
Avg. RoACE (%)	3.8	0.7	3.0	NM	5.9	10.5	11.0	14.1	17.4	22.6
Net debt to EBITDA (X)	3.3	4.4	3.3	3.4	2.8	3.0	2.6	1.8	1.2	0.7
CRoCI (%)	10.1	8.2	11.3	NM	13.3	14.9	15.9	15.6	16.2	16.9

Exhibit 12: Financial model of Reliance Jio, March fiscal year-ends, 2018-27E (Rs bn)

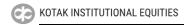
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E
Assumptions										
Wireless subscriber base at end-period (mn)	187	307	388	424	405	431	471	496	523	545
Wireless subscriber market share (%)	17	28	34	36	35	38	40	42	43	45
Wireless ARPU (Rs/month)	138	131	130	141	150	173	174	197	215	239
Broadband subscriber base at end-period (mn)		1	1	3	5	8	11	18	26	34
Broadband ARPU (Rs/month)		_	_	662	496	503	511	552	589	615
Overall subscribers at end-period (mn)	187	307	389	426	410	439	482	514	549	579
Blended ARPU (Rs/month)	138	131	130	143	153	178	181	207	230	259
Overall EBITDA margins (%)	33.4	38.9	39.7	44.2	48.9	51.4	52.4	55.1	56.8	58.9
Profit model										
Revenues	202	388	543	699	770	908	1,001	1,239	1,470	1,756
EBITDA	67	151	216	309	376	467	524	682	835	1,034
Net income	7	30	56	120	148	182	205	298	383	507
Contribution to RIL's EPS (Rs)	1	5	10	13	15	18	20	29	38	50
Balance sheet										
Net-worth	1,029	404	1,710	1,830	1,978	2,160	2,364	2,662	3,045	3,552
Effective net debt	1,400	1,456	495	511	971	1,979	2,067	1,804	1,489	1,062
Invested capital	2,278	1,760	2,144	2,295	3,227	4,682	5,297	5,671	6,018	6,390
Cash flow										
Operating cash flow	(20)	50	92	275	233	404	351	576	618	788
Working capital	(29)	(75)	(37)	19	(64)	(2)	30	25	22	(20)
Capital expenditure inc. DPL repayments	(358)	(438)	(518)	(261)	(481)	(336)	(534)	(434)	(473)	(391)
Free cash flow	(407)	(464)	(462)	34	(313)	66	(153)	167	168	377
Returns (%)										
RoAE	0.8	4.1	5.3	6.8	7.8	8.8	9.0	11.9	13.4	15.4
RoACE	0.9	2.6	5.2	6.4	6.7	5.9	5.4	7.3	9.2	11.8
CRoCI	2.5	6.9	8.4	11.5	9.8	8.5	8.5	10.1	11.6	13.5
Adjusted CRoCI	2.5	6.9	8.8	11.4	9.8	8.5	8.5	10.1	11.6	14.1

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

For every Rs10/month change in ARPU, FY2026E R-Jio's EBITDA could change by Rs40 bn (\sim 4.8%) and for every 10 mn paying subs change, FY2026E R-Jio's EBITDA could change by Rs8 bn (\sim 1%)

Exhibit 13: Sensitivity of RJio's FY2026E EBITDA to FY2026E ARPU and wireless subs, March fiscal year-ends

			FY2026E W	/ireless ARPU (F	Rs)	
		195	205	215	225	235
	503	739	778	817	856	895
FY2026E Wireless	513	747	786	826	865	904
	523	755	794	834	874	914
subs (mn)	533	762	802	842	883	923
	543	770	810	851	891	932



We are slightly ahead of consensus on FY2026-27E ARPU and 7-15% above on EBITDA on better flow-through of tariff hikes

Exhibit 14: Comparison of KIE and consensus estimates for Reliance Jio

	KIE Consensus						KIE versus consensus					
	2025E	2026E	2027E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2025E	2026E	2027E			
Wireless												
EoP subs (mn)	496	523	545	492	517	535	0.8	1.2	1.8			
ARPU (Rs/month)	197	215	239	196	211	228	0.6	1.8	5.1			
Revenue (Rs bn)	1,142	1,314	1,534	1,145	1,322	1,475	(0.3)	(0.6)	4.0			
Fixed Broadband and FWA												
EoP subs (mn)	18.0	26.0	34.0	17.0	22.7	24.5	5.9	14.5	38.8			
ARPU (Rs/month)	537	591	616	502	509	506	7.1	15.9	21.7			
Revenue (Rs bn)	95	156	222	105	137	164	(9.6)	13.5	35.0			
Overall												
EoP subs (mn)	514	549	579	509	540	560	1.0	1.7	3.5			
ARPU (Rs/month)	207	230	259	218	233	251	(4.9)	(1.2)	3.2			
Revenue (Rs bn)	1,237	1,470	1,756	1,294	1,467	1,688	(4.4)	0.2	4.0			
EBITDA (Rs bn)	681	834	1,034	667	782	900	2.1	6.6	14.8			
EBITDA margin (%)	55.0	56.8	58.9	51.5	53.3	53.3	351 bps	342 bps	555 bps			
PAT (Rs bn)	297	383	507	261	325	405.8	13.7	17.9	24.8			

Source: Visible Alpha, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

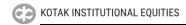
We ascribe an enterprise value of Rs7.83 tn to R-Jio's wireless business and ~Rs6.9 tn (or Rs1,018/share) attributable EV for digital services to RIL in our base case

Exhibit 15: Calculation of R-Jio's EV using discounted cash flow analysis in base case scenario, March fiscal year-ends (Rs bn, Rs/share)

	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E	2033E	2034E	2035E	2036
Assumptions	2024	2023L	2020L	2027L	2020L	20292	2030L	20312	2032L	2033L	2034L	2033L	2030
Wireless subscriber base (mn)	471	496	523	545	560	572	582	590	595	600	605		
Net adds	39.7	25.2	27.0	22.0	15.0	12.5	10.0	7.5	5.0	5.0	5.0		
Wireless ARPU (Rs/month)	174	197	215	239	256	270	283	296	308	319	328		
yoy	0.8	12.9	9.1	11.4	7.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0		
DCF model													
Wireless EBITDA	492	629	747	910	1,017	1,106	1,191	1,268	1,337	1,400	1,457		
Adjusted tax expense	(123)	(157)	(187)	(227)	(254)	(277)	(298)	(317)	(334)	(350)	(364)		
Change in working capital	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1		
Operating cash flow	370	474	563	685	765	832	895	953	1,005	1,051	1,094		
Capital expenditure	(584)	(406)	(375)	(376)	(384)	(394)	(405)	(409)	(414)	(419)	(424)		
Free cash flow	(214)	68	187	309	381	437	490	543	590	632	670	700	731
Discounted cash flow-now	0	62	155	231	257	268	271	272	268	259	249		
Discounted cash flow-1 year forward		0	171	256	284	296	300	301	296	286	275	260	
Discounted cash flow-2 year forward			0	282	314	327	331	333	327	317	304	287	272
		Now	+1-year	+2-years									
Discount rate (%)		10.5%	10.5%	10.5%									
Total PV of free cash flow		2,293	2,724	3,093									
Terminal value assumption													
Growth in perpetuity		4.5%	4.5%	4.5%		Sensiti	vity of R-Jio	wireless va	luation to	WACC and	perpetual gi	rowth	
FCF in terminal year		670	700	731					Perpetual g	rowth (%)			
Exit FCF multiple (X)		17.4	17.4	17.4				2.5%	3.5%	4.5%	5.5%	6.5%	
Exit EV/EBITDA multiple (X)		8.3	8.7	9.1		~	9.5%	7,428	8,280	9,473	11,262	14,244	
Terminal value		11,666	12,191	12,740		WACC (%)	10.0%	6,898	7,609	8,579	9,979	12,181	
PV of terminal value		4,331	4,526	4,730		S	10.5%	6,434	7,034	7,834	8,954	10,634	
Value of R-Jio wireless		6,624	7,251	7,823		₹ .	11.0%	6,026	6,536	7,204	8,115	9,431	
Implied EV/EBITDA (X)		10.5	9.7	8.6		_	11.5%	5,663	6,102	6,665	7,417	8,469	
Value of R-Jio FTTH		566	846	1,067									
Enterprise value of R-JIL		7,190	8,097	8,890									
Value of other Digital services		500	534	559									
Enterprise value of RIL's digital services		7,690	8,631	9,449									
Minority interest (33.52%)		(1,914)	(2,200)	(2,563)									
Attributable EV for RIL's digital segment		5,776	6,431	6,886									

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Shares outstanding (mn)
EV/share for RIL (Rs/share)



For every Rs10/month change in ARPU, attributable EV/share could change by Rs38/share (~3.7%) and for every 10 mn paying subs change, FV could change by Rs8/share (~0.8%)

Exhibit 16: Sensitivity of R-Jio's attributable EV/share for RIL to FY2026E wireless ARPU and wireless subs March fiscal year-ends

		FY2026E Wireless ARPU (Rs)										
		195	205	215	225	235						
	503	927	964	1,002	1,039	1,076						
FY2026E Wireless 513	935	972	1,010	1,047	1,085							
subs (mn)	523	942	980	1,018	1,055	1,093						
Subs (IIIII)	533	949	987	1,026	1,064	1,102						
	543	956	995	1,034	1,072	1,111						

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Our SoTP-based Fair Value of RIL is Rs3,200 per share

Exhibit 17: SoTP valuation of RIL, based on March 2026 estimates (Rs)

	EBITDA	EV/EBITDA	EV		Valuation
	(Rs bn)	(X)	(Rs bn)	(US\$ bn)	(Rs/share)
Energy			6,267	76	926
Petrochemicals	281	7.0	1,966	24	291
Refining and marketing	397	7.0	2,781	34	411
Upstream	177	5.0	883	11	130
New energy option value			637	8	94
R-Jio			6,886	83	1,018
Base case	890	DCF	9,449	114	1,397
Minority interest (33.52%)			(2,563)	(31)	(379)
Retail			10,137	122	1,498
Core retail	351	32.0	11,217	135	1,658
New commerce option value			868	10	128
Minority interest (16.49%)			(1,949)	(23)	(288)
Disney - Viacom JV			304	4	45
Total enterprise value			23,594	284	3,488
Consolidated net debt			1,947	23	288
Fair value			21,646	261	3,200

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Exhibit 18: Key assumptions for Vodafone Idea, March fiscal year-ends, 2020-27E

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E
Key assumptions								
Paying subscriber base (EoP) (mn)	291	268	244	226	213	205	203	205
Paying net adds (mn)	(43.0)	(23.3)	(24.0)	(17.9)	(13.3)	(7.5)	(2.0)	2.0
VLR subscribers (EoP) (mn)	293.7	255.7	226.1	207.9	193.3	186.3	184.4	185.7
Net VLR subscriber addition (mn)	(74.6)	(38.0)	(29.6)	(18.2)	(14.6)	(6.9)	(1.9)	1.2
Pre-paid subscribers (% of EoP subscribers)	92.1	92.2	91.8	90.1	88.8	87.8	87.0	86.0
Total data subscribers (2G+3G+4G) (mn)	140	140	136	136	137	143	149	154
4G subscribers (mn)	105.6	113.9	118.1	122.6	126.3	133.3	139.8	145.8
Blended ARPU (Rs/month)	111	114	112	132	143	167	193	215
Total data volume (2G+3G+4G) (bn MB)	14,594	18,208	21,493	22,707	24,174	25,425	27,248	29,239
Data usage by data subscribers (2G+3G+4G) (MB/month)	8,511	10,861	12,998	13,919	14,731	15,123	15,574	16,110
Voice traffic (bn min)	2,547	2,210	1,901	1,727	1,629	1,621	1,687	1,691
Average MoU (min/subscriber/month)	679	659	619	613	619	647	689	690
Total unique towers (EoP)	185,544	180,484	184,794	184,382	183,758	198,758	218,758	228,758
Total unique broadband towers (EoP)	162,380	165,409	169,016	170,359	170,530	193,789	217,664	228,529
Total broadband sites (3G+4G)	436,006	452,650	455,264	443,537	443,537	403,705	509,665	572,457



For every Rs10 change in ARPU, reported EBITDA changes by \sim Rs16 bn (\sim 6.5%) and for every 10 mn change in subs base, reported EBITDA changes by \sim Rs7.5 bn (\sim 3%)

Exhibit 19: Sensitivity of Vi's reported EBITDA to ARPU and subscriber base

FY2026E Wireless ARPU (Rs) FY2026E Wireless subs (mn)

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

For every Rs10 change in ARPU, reported EBITDA changes by \sim Rs16 bn (\sim 11.5%) and for every 10 mn change in subs base, reported EBITDA changes by \sim Rs7.5 bn (\sim 5%)

Exhibit 20: Sensitivity of Vi's Ind AS 116-adjusted EBITDA to ARPU and subscriber base

FY2026E Wireless ARPU (Rs) FY2026E Wireless subs (mn)

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

We are largely in line with the Street on ARPU, but below on EBITDA, largely driven by lower subscriber base

Exhibit 21: Comparison of KIE and consensus estimates for Vodafone Idea

	KIE			(Consens	sus	KIE ver	KIE versus consensus			
	2025E	2026E	2027E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2025E	2026E	2027E		
India wireless											
EoP subs (mn)	205	203	205	215	220	225	(4.6)	(7.5)	(8.8)		
ARPU (Rs/month)	167	193	215	168	192	216	(0.4)	0.8	(0.3)		
Mobile service revenue (Rs bn)	419	473	527	430	499	574	(2.6)	(5.1)	(8.2)		
Other revenue (Rs bn)	51	54	57	46	46	44	10.3	16.6	30.0		
Revenue (Rs bn)	470	527	584	476	545	618	(1.4)	(3.3)	(5.5)		
EBITDA (Rs bn)	205	236	270	210	260	312	(2.4)	(8.9)	(13.6)		
EBITDA margin (%)	43.6	44.9	46.2	44.1	47.7	50.5	(44)bps	(278)bps	(432)bps		

Source: Visible Alpha, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates



Exhibit 22: Calculation of Vodafone Idea's FV using DCF analysis in base case, March fiscal year-ends (Rs bn, Rs/share)

	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E	2033E	2034E	2035E	2036E
Assumptions													
Paying subscriber base (mn)	211	205	203	205	207	210	212	214	216	218	220		
Net adds	(14.7)	(6.1)	(2.0)	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0		
ARPU (Rs/month)	143	167	193	215	233	251	268	285	299	311	320		
yoy	8.1	17.2	15.5	11.3	8.5	7.5	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0		
DCF model													
Wireless EBITDA	171	205	236	270	302	335	368	399	427	452	473		
Adjusted tax expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(10)	(21)		
Change in working capital	0	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	3		
Operating cash flow	172	208	241	274	307	339	373	403	431	446	455		
Capital expenditure	(19)	(140)	(165)	(145)	(150)	(120)	(120)	(125)	(125)	(130)	(130)		
Free cash flow	153	68	76	129	157	219	253	278	307	315	325	336	348
Discounted cash flow-now		62	62	95	104	131	136	135	134	124	115		
Discounted cash flow-1 year forward			69	106	116	146	151	150	149	138	128	119	
Discounted cash flow-2 year forward				118	128	162	168	166	165	153	142	132	123

	Now	+1-year	+2-years								
Discount rate (%)	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%								
Total PV of free cash flow	1,100	1,272	1,458								
Terminal value assumption											
Growth in perpetuity 3.5% 3.5% Sensitivity of 12-month fair value to WACC and perpetual growth											
FCF in terminal year	325	336	348				Perpetual g	rowth (%)			
Exit FCF multiple (X)	13.8	13.8	13.8			1.5%	2.5%	3.5%	4.5%	5.5%	
Exit EV/EBITDA multiple (X)	9.5	9.8	10.1		10.0%	9	12	17	23	31	
Terminal value	4,478	4,635	4,797	%	10.5%	7	9	13	18	25	
PV of terminal value	1,590	1,645	1,703	8	11.0%	4	7	10	14	20	
Value of Vi's wireless biz	2,690	2,917	3,161	×	11.5%	2	5	7	11	15	
Implied EV/EBITDA	13.1	12.3	11.7		12.0%	1	3	5	8	12	
Enterprise value (Rs bn)	2,690	2,917	3,161								
Net debt including leases	2,507	2,700	2,373								
Implied equity value (Rs bn)	182	216	788								
Shares outstanding (mn)	68,319	69,479	78,520								
Implied Fair Value (Rs/share)	3	3	10								



Exhibit 23: Summary financials for Vi, March fiscal year-ends, 2019-27E (Rs mn)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E
Profit and loss statement									
Revenues	370,925	449,575	419,522	385,155	421,772	426,517	469,588	526,739	583,619
Total costs	(332,495)	(301,598)	(250,065)	(224,794)	(253,602)	(255,257)	(264,722)	(290,268)	(314,031)
Total costs ex-IC, ex-LF/SUC	(251,474)	(193,140)	(155,864)	(153,651)	(174,590)	(177,354)	(181,258)	(200,399)	(217,727)
EBITDA	38,430	147,977	169,457	160,361	168,170	171,260	204,866	236,471	269,588
EBITDA margin (%)	10.4	32.9	40.4	41.6	39.9	40.2	43.6	44.9	46.2
Ind-AS 116 adjusted EBITDA (ex one-offs)	36,430	52,975	66,457	62,761	82,970	83,998	114,266	140,371	169,538
Ind-AS 116 adjusted EBITDA margin (%)	9.8	11.8	15.8	16.3	19.7	19.7	24.3	26.6	29.0
D&A	(145,356)	(243,564)	(236,385)	(235,843)	(230,497)	(226,335)	(227,682)	(225,134)	(222,594)
EBIT	(106,926)	(95,587)	(66,928)	(75,482)	(62,327)	(55,075)	(22,817)	11,337	46,994
Net finance costs	(87,317)	(142,379)	(178,239)	(208,514)	(230,430)	(256,523)	(247,111)	(260,382)	(265,851)
PBT	(194,243)	(237,966)	(245,167)	(283,996)	(292,757)	(311,598)	(269,928)	(249,045)	(218,857)
Provision for taxes	48,950	(120,811)	203	(113)	(35)	(8,286)	_	_	_
PAT before MI/associates	(145,293)	(358,777)	(244,964)	(284,109)	(292,792)	(319,884)	(269,928)	(249,045)	(218,857)
MI + Associates	1,969	3,553	2,314	12	5	(55)	_	_	_
Recurring PAT	(143,324)	(355,224)	(242,650)	(284,097)	(292,787)	(319,939)	(269,928)	(249,045)	(218,857)
E0 items	(23,124)	(383,557)	(199,681)	1,643	(224)	7,555	_	_	_
Reported PAT	(166,448)	(738,781)	(442,331)	(282,454)	(293,011)	(312,384)	(269,928)	(249,045)	(218,857)
# of shares (mn)	8,736	28,735	28,735	32,119	48,680	50,120	69,479	78,520	91,409
EPS (Rs/share)	(16.4)	(12.4)	(8.4)	(8.8)	(6.0)	(6.4)	(3.9)	(3.2)	(2.4)
Condensed balance sheet									
Net fixed assets	1,801,588	1,868,780	1,680,900	1,571,425	1,565,555	1,407,636	1,320,337	1,260,233	1,182,445
Other LT assets	311,595	233,555	212,911	200,511	367,843	313,243	323,701	337,791	352,344
Current assets ex-cash	183,812	166,861	140,995	168,355	139,029	129,098	378,000	174,335	183,948
Total assets	2,296,995	2,269,196	2,034,806	1,940,291	2,072,427	1,849,977	2,022,038	1,772,359	1,718,737
Shareholders' equity	596,348	59,799	(382,280)	(619,648)	(743,591)	(1,041,668)	(1,094,846)	(1,221,828)	(1,266,685)
Net debt	1,183,883	1,125,200	1,780,897	2,001,016	2,271,993	2,340,905	2,315,203	2,383,771	2,364,281
Other LT liabilities	(25,620)	126,407	(27,836)	(52,416)	(56,202)	9,327	286,029	110,399	(29,112)
Current liabilities	542,384	957,790	664,025	611,339	600,227	541,413	515,652	500,018	650,253
Total equity and liabilities	2,296,995	2,269,196	2,034,806	1,940,291	2,072,427	1,849,977	2,022,038	1,772,359	1,718,737
Condensed CF statement									
Operating cash flow before working capital changes	45,398	165,730	170,842	177,277	182,412	201,836	213,088	274,004	304,610
Working capital changes	50,179	(92,455)	(14,445)	(3,407)	6,275	6,425	(8,645)	1,603	(753)
Net finance costs	(53,962)	(152,585)	(28,256)	(150,535)	(151,115)	(189,804)	(247,111)	(260,382)	(265,851)
Cash flow from operations	41,615	(79,310)	128,141	23,335	37,572	18,457	(42,668)	15,226	38,006
Capex	(44,000)	(83,640)	(52,844)	(61,124)	(56,222)	(20,622)	(140,383)	(165,031)	(144,806)
Free cash flow (post interest)	(2,385)	(162,950)	75,297	(37,789)	(18,650)	(2,165)	(183,051)	(149,805)	(106,800)

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BUY. We expect this stock to deliver more than 15% returns over the next 12 months.

ADD. We expect this stock to deliver 5-15% returns over the next 12 months.

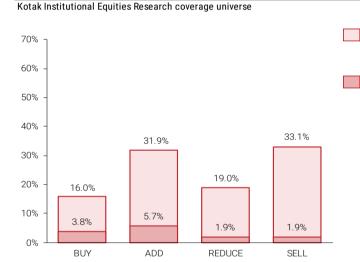
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Source: Kotak Institutional Equities

As of March 31, 2024

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