

BHARTI TELECOM LIMITED

October 05, 2026

Facilities/Instruments	Name of the Regulator ¹	Amount (₹ crore)	Rating ²	Rating Action
Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	11,150.00	CARE AAA; Stable	Reaffirmed
Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	10,500.00	CARE AAA; Stable	Reaffirmed
Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	8,500.00	CARE AAA; Stable	Reaffirmed
Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	5,800.00	CARE AAA; Stable	Reaffirmed

Details of instruments/facilities in Annexure-1.

Rationale and key rating drivers

Reaffirmation of ratings assigned to non-convertible debentures (NCD) issuances of Bharti Telecom Limited (BTL) continues to factor in its robust financial flexibility, supported by strong parentage of Bharti group and Singapore Telecommunications Limited (SingTel), and BTL's integral role as the principal investment holding company of Bharti Airtel Limited (BAL; rated CARE AAA; Stable / CARE A1+). BTL held a 39.51% equity stake in BAL, the group's flagship telecom company, as on June 30, 2026.

The Bharti group is a leading conglomerate in India with diversified interests in telecom, insurance, payment solutions, and real estate, while SingTel is a leading telecommunication service provider in Singapore and Australia.

Ratings also derive strength from robust credit profile of its underlying asset, BAL, a global telecommunications solutions provider with over 681 million customers across 17 countries representing India, 14 countries in Africa, and presence in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka through associate entities as on June 30, 2026. BAL's strong credit profile is driven by its prominent market position in Indian mobile services, established operations in mobile business in Africa, diversified revenue stream in non-mobile segment with strong growth expected from enterprise segment, and steady improvement in leverage, which is expected to be further strengthened with reduction in capex intensity and expansion of profit before interest, lease rentals, depreciation, and taxation (PBILDT).

CARE Ratings Limited (CareEdge Ratings) favourably notes significant market value of BTL's stake in the listed equity shares of BAL worth ~₹4.48 lakh crore as on September 22, 2026, which is entirely unencumbered. While the other holding companies of Bharti group, Bharti Enterprises (Holding) Private Limited (BEHPL) and Bharti Enterprises Limited (BEL; rated CARE A1+), are debt free as on September 22, 2026, BTL has outstanding debt of ~₹41,040 crore as on September 22, 2026. Strong market value of investments to combined debt cover for three holding companies is a credit positive. CareEdge Ratings expects BTL to continue benefiting from increased profitability and prospects of strong cash flow generation of BAL.

These rating strengths are partially tempered by exposure to market-related systematic risks, which influence BTL's investment to debt cover.

Rating sensitivities: Factors likely to lead to rating actions

Positive factors

- Not applicable

Negative factors

- Deterioration in credit rating of BAL by one or more notches.
- Steep decline in market capitalisation of BAL, compressing market value of investment-to-debt cover (combined for BTL, BEL and BEHPL).
- Material dilution in BTL's shareholding in BAL.

¹SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India; RBI: Reserve Bank of India; MCA: Ministry of Corporate Affairs; IRDAI: Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India; PFRDA: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

²Complete definitions of the ratings assigned are available at www.careratings.com and in other CARE Ratings Limited's publications.

Analytical approach:

Standalone. Considering the common treasury function for Bharti group, market value-to-debt cover has been analysed on a combined basis for three holding companies: BEL, BTL, and BEHPL.

Outlook: Stable

Stable outlook reflects expectation that BTL will continue to derive financial flexibility from its stake in BAL and resourcefulness of its promoters.

Detailed description of key rating drivers

Key strengths

Strong parentage of the Bharti group and SingTel

BTL has strong parentage of the Bharti group (50.56%) and SingTel (49.44%) as on March 31, 2026. The Bharti group is one of the leading conglomerates in India with diversified interests in telecom, insurance, payment solutions, and real estate. SingTel is a leading telecom service provider in Singapore, owned by the Government of Singapore through its wholly owned subsidiary, Temasek Holdings Private Limited (51.8% stake). SingTel is also a major telecom service provider in Australia through its wholly owned subsidiary, SingTel Optus Pty Limited. It has operations in 20 countries with over 839 million mobile customers as on March 31, 2026. BTL's board comprises representatives from the Mittal family and SingTel.

Strategic role with track record of support from the promoter group

BTL is the principal holding company of the Bharti group for its telecom businesses, significance of which is reflected in its underlying investments. As the holding company of BAL, CareEdge Ratings expects BTL to continue managing its leverage prudently and benefit from promoter support, as evidenced by its past track record.

Robust credit profile of its underlying investment – BAL

BAL is a global telecommunications solutions provider with over 681 million customers across 17 countries, representing India, 14 countries in Africa, and presence in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka through associate entities as on June 30, 2026. It is the second-largest telecom service provider in India with 491 million wireless subscribers and the second-largest mobile operator in Africa with over 188 million customers across 14 countries. BAL's retail portfolio includes 4G and 5G wireless services, mobile commerce, fixed line services, home broadband and direct-to-home services. BAL also caters to the business-to-business (B2B) segment through its 14 data centres, 120+ Edge data centres, subsea marine cables spanning 410,500+ route km across 50 countries and five continents. BAL has demonstrated continuous improvement in operational performance, resulting in healthy business and financial risk profiles. Steady improvement in its average revenue per user (ARPU), diversified revenue streams, moderating capex, and steady improvement in leverage are expected to support BAL's credit profile.

High investments value and resourceful promoter groups drive BTL's financial flexibility

BTL's financial flexibility is supported by strong reputation and resourcefulness of its promoters, robust credit profile of its flagship business, BAL, and the significant market value of its stake in BAL. As on September 22, 2026, BTL is the largest shareholder in BAL, holding a 39.51% stake valued at ~₹4.48 lakh crore. Promoters' entire stake in BAL is unencumbered, providing substantial financial flexibility.

CareEdge Ratings notes that BTL has consistently maintained a strong investment (market value)-to-debt cover ratio. For leverage monitoring, CareEdge Ratings considers debt at BTL, BEL, and BEHPL, given their common ownership by BEHPL. As on September 22, 2026, BEL and BEHPL had nil external debt, while BTL's outstanding debt stood at ~₹41,040 crore. CareEdge Ratings notes that borrowing levels at holding companies, primarily BTL, increased for two years ended FY26 (FY refers to April 01 to March 31), following the acquisition of additional stake in BAL from another prominent shareholder group, and subscription to the rights issue call money. However, the investment's market value continues to provide strong coverage for combined debt. The investment's market value to combined debt cover is expected to remain robust and decline below the level envisaged by CareEdge Ratings, will be a key monitorable.

Key weaknesses

Exposure to inherent market risk

BTL's financial flexibility depends on the market value of its investments, which remains exposed to volatility associated with market-linked fluctuations. Increase in market-related risks leading to a sharp decline in investment value without a commensurate reduction in external debt levels on a sustained basis is a key rating monitorable.

Liquidity: Strong

Being a holding company, BTL primarily relies on dividend income from BAL and has no other operating revenue sources. BTL received healthy dividend income of ₹3,774 crore in FY26, a significant increase from ₹1,819 crore in FY25, leading to an improvement in interest coverage ratio from 0.67x in FY25 to 1.11x in FY26. Dividend inflows increased further to ~₹5,900 crore in H1FY27, and are expected to remain strong going forward, supported by robust free cash flow generation at BAL, which is likely to further strengthen BTL's interest coverage ratio. Strong liquidity is also supported by healthy market cover of investments and significant financial flexibility due to its shareholding in BAL, valued at over ~₹4.48 lakh crore as on September 22, 2026, and resourceful promoters.

Assumptions/Covenants: Not applicable

Environment, social, and governance (ESG) risks: Not applicable

Applicable criteria

[Definition of Default](#)

[Factoring Linkages Parent Sub JV Group](#)

[Investment Holding Companies](#)

[Liquidity Analysis of Non-financial sector entities](#)

[Rating Outlook and Rating Watch](#)

[Financial Ratios – Non financial Sector](#)

About the company and industry**Industry classification**

Macroeconomic indicator	Sector	Industry	Basic industry
Financial services	Financial services	Finance	Holding company

Incorporated in July 1985, BTL is promoted by the Bharti group (50.56% stake) and SingTel (49.44% stake). The Bharti group holds its stake in BTL through the group's ultimate holding company, BEHPL, while SingTel holds its stake through its subsidiaries: Singtel International Investments Private Limited (10.13%), Pastel Limited (32.08%), and Magenta Investment Limited (7.23%). BTL is the promoter of BAL, the group's flagship operating company and a leading player in the Indian telecommunications industry.

Brief Financials (₹ crore)	March 31, 2025 (A)	March 31, 2026 (A)	Q1FY27 (UA)
Total operating income	1,819	3,774	1
PAT	-1,212	-321	-914
Tangible net-worth (TNW)	6,157	5,854	NA
Overall gearing (x)	6.60	7.98	NA
Interest coverage (times)	0.67	1.11	NM

A: Audited; UA: Unaudited (limited review by the auditor); NA: Not available; NM: Not meaningful

Note: These are latest available financial results.

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: Not applicable

Rating history for last three years: Annexure-2

Detailed explanation of covenants of rated instrument / facility: Annexure-3

For complexity level of instruments rated refer to Annexure-1

Lender details: Annexure-4

Disclosure on facilities/instruments and name of the regulators:

A list of facilities / instruments falling under the purview of various financial sector regulators (FSRs) along with the names of respective FSRs has been duly disclosed by CareEdge Ratings on its website. A link to the same has been provided below for ready reference:

https://www.careratings.com/activities_and_regulators

Note: For facilities or instruments falling under the purview of FSRs other than Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the grievance / dispute redressal mechanisms and investor protection mechanisms provided by SEBI shall not be available.

Annexure-1: Details of instruments/facilities

Name of the Instrument	Name of the Regulator	Complexity Level	ISIN	Date of Issuance (DD-MM-YYYY)	Coupon Rate (%)	Maturity Date (DD-MM-YYYY)	Size of the Issue (₹ crore)	Rating Assigned and Rating Outlook
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08322	12-Mar-2026	7.85%	20-Mar-2029	2000.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08314	12-Mar-2026	7.75%	29-Feb-2028	2500.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	Proposed				1300.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08306	01-Dec-2025	7.30%	01-Dec-2027	4250.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08298	01-Dec-2025	7.30%	01-Dec-2029	4250.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08280	15-Oct-2025	7.45	15-Dec-2028	5250.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08272	15-Oct-2025	7.35	15-Oct-2027	5250.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08215	05-Nov-2024	8.90%	05-Nov-2034	1500.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08223	05-Nov-2024	8.25%	15-Nov-2027	2000.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08231	05-Nov-2024	8.65%	05-Nov-2027	2000.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08249	05-Nov-2024	8.90%	05-Nov-2031	1500.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08256	05-Nov-2024	8.75%	05-Nov-2028	1650.00	CARE AAA; Stable
Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	SEBI	Simple	INE403D08264	05-Nov-2024	8.75%	05-Nov-2029	2500.00	CARE AAA; Stable

Annexure-2: Rating history for last three years

Sr. No.	Name of the Instrument/Bank Facilities	Current Ratings			Rating History			
		Type	Amount Outstanding (₹ crore)	Rating	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2026-2027	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2025-2026	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2024-2025	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2023-2024
1	Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	LT	11150.00	CARE AAA; Stable	-	1)CARE AAA; Stable (24-Feb-26) 2)CARE AAA; Stable (20-Nov-25) 3)CARE AAA; Stable (10-Oct-25)	1)CARE AAA; Stable (28-Oct-24)	-
2	Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	LT	10500.00	CARE AAA; Stable	-	1)CARE AAA; Stable (24-Feb-26) 2)CARE AAA; Stable (20-Nov-25) 3)CARE AAA; Stable (10-Oct-25)	-	-
3	Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	LT	8500.00	CARE AAA; Stable	-	1)CARE AAA; Stable (24-Feb-26) 2)CARE AAA; Stable (20-Nov-25)	-	-
4	Debentures-Non Convertible Debentures	LT	5800.00	CARE AAA; Stable	-	1)CARE AAA; Stable (24-Feb-26)	-	-

LT: Long term

Annexure-3: Detailed explanation of covenants of rated instruments/facilities: Not applicable

Annexure-4: Lender details

To view lender-wise details of bank facilities please [click here](#)

Note on complexity levels of rated instruments: CareEdge Ratings has classified instruments rated by it based on complexity. Investors/market intermediaries/regulators or others are welcome to write to care@careedge.in for clarifications.

Contact us

Media Contact Mradul Mishra Director CARE Ratings Limited Phone: +91-22-6754 3596 E-mail: mradul.mishra@careedge.in	Analytical Contacts Rajashree Murkute Senior Director CARE Ratings Limited Phone: +91-22-68374474 E-mail: rajashree.murkute@careedge.in
Relationship Contact Saikat Roy Senior Director CARE Ratings Limited Phone: 912267543404 E-mail: saikat.roy@careedge.in	Maulesh Desai Director CARE Ratings Limited Phone: +91-79-40265605 E-mail: maulesh.desai@careedge.in
	Prasanna Krishnan Associate Director CARE Ratings Limited Phone: +91-120-4452014 E-mail: prasanna.krishnan@careedge.in

About us:

Established in 1993, CareEdge Ratings is one of the leading credit rating agencies in India. Registered under the Securities and Exchange Board of India, it has been acknowledged as an External Credit Assessment Institution by the Reserve Bank of India. With an equitable position in the Indian capital market, CareEdge Ratings provides a wide array of credit rating services that help corporates raise capital and enable investors to make informed decisions. With an established track record of rating companies over almost three decades, CareEdge Ratings follows a robust and transparent rating process that leverages its domain and analytical expertise, backed by the methodologies congruent with the international best practices. CareEdge Ratings has played a pivotal role in developing bank debt and capital market instruments, including commercial papers, corporate bonds and debentures, and structured credit. For more information: www.careratings.com

Disclaimer:

This disclaimer pertains to the ratings issued and content published by CARE Ratings Limited ("CareEdge Ratings"). Ratings are opinions on the likelihood of timely payment of the obligations under the rated instrument and are not recommendations to sanction, renew, disburse, or recall the concerned bank facilities or to buy, sell, or hold any security. Any opinions expressed herein are in good faith and are subject to change without notice. The rating reflects the opinions as on the date of the rating. A rating does not convey suitability or price for the investor. The rating agency does not conduct an audit on the rated entity or an independent verification of any information it receives and/or relies on for the rating exercise. CareEdge Ratings has based its ratings/outlook on the information obtained from reliable and credible sources. CareEdge Ratings does not, however, guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, or completeness of any information and is not responsible for any errors or omissions and the results obtained from the use of such information. The users of the rating should rely on their own judgment and may take professional advice while using the rating in any way. CareEdge Ratings shall not be liable for any losses that user may incur or any financial liability whatsoever to the user of the rating. The use or access of the rating does not create a client relationship between CareEdge Ratings and the user.

CAREEDGE RATINGS DISCLAIMS WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR OTHER WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAWS, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, ERROR-FREE, NON-INFRINGEMENT, NON-INTERRUPTION, SATISFACTORY QUALITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR INTENDED USAGE.

Most entities whose bank facilities/instruments are rated by CareEdge Ratings have paid a credit rating fee, based on the amount and type of bank facilities/instruments. CareEdge Ratings or its subsidiaries/associates may also be involved with other commercial transactions with the entity. CareEdge Ratings does not act as a fiduciary by providing the rating. The ratings are intended for use only within the jurisdiction of India. The ratings of CareEdge Ratings do not factor in any rating-related trigger clauses as per the terms of the facilities/instruments, which may involve acceleration of payments in case of rating downgrades. However, if any such clauses are introduced and triggered, the ratings may see volatility and sharp downgrades. CareEdge Ratings has established policies and procedures as required under applicable laws and regulations which are available on its website.

Privacy Policy applies. For Privacy Policy please refer to https://www.careratings.com/privacy_policy

© 2026, CARE Ratings Limited. All Rights Reserved.

This content is being published for the purpose of dissemination of information required as per applicable law and regulations and CARE Ratings Limited holds exclusive copyright over the same. Any reproduction, retransmission, modification, derivative works or use or reference to the contents, in whole, in part or in any form, is prohibited except with prior express written consent from CARE Ratings Limited.

**For detailed Rating Report and subscription information,
please visit www.careratings.com**