

News monitored for: JM Financial

Analysts Bullish on Airtel, See Investor Returns of up to 27%

Outlook Bullish

Brokerage	Rating	Q4 Price Target (₹)	
		Before	After
Kotak Institutional	Add	830	850
I-SEC Institutional	Buy	960	960
Morgan Stanley	Overweight	860	870
Goldman Sachs	Buy	870	875
JP Morgan	Underweight	700	700
Jefferies	Buy	900	900
JM Financial	Buy	940	940
BNP Paribas Asia	Buy	930	935
Motilal Oswal	Buy	950	950
Nuvama	Buy	910	910
CLSA	Buy	1,015	1,015

Sources: Bloomberg, Brokerage Houses

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Mumbai: Analysts reiterated their bullish calls on Bharti Airtel and advised investors to buy the stock on the premise it can deliver returns of as much as 27% from current levels.

Shares of Bharti Airtel advanced as much as 1.3% in Thursday's trading before closing the day at ₹800 on the NSE, up 0.98% from the previous close with a spike in trading volumes. More than 10 million shares exchanged hands on both exchanges, up nearly 2.3 times its combined average daily volume.

After market hours on Tuesday, India's second-largest mobile operator reported a consolidated 50% year-on-year growth in fourth-quarter net profit that beat Street expectations, albeit with a softer India growth owing to aggressive capex.

"Continued strong traction in 4G/postpaid subscriber ba-

se and visibility of resilient incremental margins in India Wireless business and OCF generation augur well for Bharti," said Morgan Stanley in a client note.

Of the 23 analysts who reviewed Airtel's fourth-quarter earnings, 19 have a 'buy' or 'outperform' rating on the stock, three remain neutral and one has an 'underweight' rating on the stock, showed a Bloomberg poll of analysts.

The consensus price target decreased by 0.34% to ₹904.46 per share, Bloomberg data showed.

"We lower our FY24/25E India Mobile revenue by 4%/3% and Ebitda by 3%/2% amid a delay in hiking tariffs," said BNP Paribas in a client note.

"We also build in higher interest and amortisation costs on elevated capex, resulting in sharper EPS estimate cuts. However, we expect Airtel to report 30%+ earnings CAGR over FY23-25," the BNP Paribas note added.