February 27, 2026

Bharti Enterprises (Holding) Private Limited: Rating reaffirmed

Summary of rating action

Instrument*	Previous rated amount (Rs. crore)	Current rated amount (Rs. crore)	Rating action
Commercial Paper	1,000.00	1,000.00	[ICRA]A1+ ; Reaffirmed
Total	**1,000.00**	**1,000.00**	

**Instrument details are provided in Annexure-I*

Rationale

The rating reaffirmation factors in Bharti Enterprises (Holding) Private Limited's (BEHPL) status as a majority shareholder of Bharti Telecom Limited {BTL; rated [ICRA] A1+) — the holding company of Bharti Airtel Limited (BAL) — a leading player in the Indian telecommunication industry. The company enjoys financial flexibility on account of its economic interest of 20.46% in BAL (market value of ~Rs. 239,000 crore as on February 18, 2026) and zero external borrowings.

BEHPL's current debt profile continues to be characterised largely by intra-group borrowings. The external debt at BTL's level stood at Rs. 39,975 crore as on February, 2026 against which the market value of its investments stood at ~Rs. 474,500 crore. While the absolute debt levels have increased materially at BTL's level to fund the stake purchases in BAL, the buffer against the market value of the investment remains healthy.

The rating also factors in the significant concentration of the investment portfolio in a listed company (although held indirectly) — BAL — with the balance towards the Group's insurance business, among others. With modest operating cash flows, the company remains dependent on intra-Group advances or promoter loans/equity and dividends to meet its funding requirements.

Key rating drivers and their description

Credit strengths

Bharti Group is holding company for BAL – BEHPL holds ~20.46% economic interest in BAL (through BTL), a leading telecom service provider in India. The market value of this economic interest was ~Rs. 239,000 crore as on February 18, 2026. The company's economic interest in BAL lends financial flexibility to BEHPL. BAL's operating metrics have been consistently improving, translating into an improvement in the ARPU levels. Thus, a consistent improvement in the cash flow generation from operations would strength BAL's credit profile, going forward.

Reputed and resourceful promoter Group – The company is a part of the reputed Bharti Group (Mittal family), which has interests in telecom in India and Africa. The Group also has interests in other domestic business segments like real estate, insurance, etc. The promoter Group has demonstrated a conservative approach by addressing the rising indebtedness at the holding companies through equity infusion and investment monetisation.

Credit challenges

Investment concentration in BAL through BTL; negligible additional investments expected in short term – BEHPL's investment portfolio is majorly concentrated on BAL, though indirectly through its stake in BTL. While BTL constitutes majority of BEHPL's investments, the balance is towards the Group's other businesses like insurance.

Negligible operating cash flows – BEHPL has limited operations with the company deriving income mainly from royalty and management fees. Thus, the operating cash flows are not material. In the absence of any material operating cash flows, BEHPL remains dependent on the timely refinancing and recovery of the Group's advances and dividends to service its Group debt. At present, the company has no external debt on its books.

Vulnerability to market risks – BEHPL's financing ability can be vulnerable to the share price performance of BAL and thus remains exposed to market risks.

Liquidity position: Adequate

The company does not have any major operations of its own and primarily derives income from royalty and management fees. Although BEHPL remains dependent on the Group or external funding to maintain its liquidity position, there are no working capital or debt servicing requirements. ICRA believes that given the reputed promoters, BEHPL has the financial flexibility to arrange funds at a short notice.

Rating sensitivities

Positive factors – Not Applicable.

Negative factors – Pressure on the rating could arise if there is a significant deterioration in the credit profile of the key operating asset — BAL — or if there is a significant decline in the market value buffer of its investments in BAL, impacting its financial flexibility.

Analytical approach

Analytical approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	Investment Companies Corporate Credit Rating Methodology
Parent/group Support	Not Applicable
Consolidation/standalone	Standalone

About the company

BEHPL is part of the Bharti Enterprises Group, which is promoted by Mr. Sunil Bharti Mittal. BEHPL is a holding company and its primary investment includes a stake in BTL, which has further investments in BAL. Apart from the telecom business, BEHPL has investments in the holding companies of the Group's other interests like insurance.

Key financial indicators (audited)

Bharti Enterprises (Holding) Private Limited (Consolidated)	FY2024	FY2025
Operating income	**1.0**	**1.0**
PAT	**16.7**	**9.0**

Bharti Enterprises (Holding) Private Limited (Consolidated)	FY2024	FY2025
OPBDITA/OI	-39.7%	-644.4%
PAT/OI	1669.9%	902.0%
Total outside liabilities/tangible net worth (times)	0.3	0.3
Total debt/OPBDITA (times)	-1787.4	-110.1
Interest coverage (times)	-50.3	

Source: Company, ICRA Research; All ratios are as per ICRA's calculations; Amount in Rs. Crore.:PAT: Profit after tax; OPBDITA: Operating profit before depreciation, interest, taxes and amortisation

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: Not applicable

Rating history for past three years

Instrument	Current rating(FY2026)			Chronology of rating history for the past 3 years					
				FY2025		FY2024		FY2023	
	Type	Amount rated (Rs crore)	February 27, 2026	Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating
Commercial Paper	Commercial Paper	1000.00	[ICRA]A1+	February 18, 2025	[ICRA]A1+	March 28, 2024	[ICRA]A1+	March 21, 2023	[ICRA]A1+

Complexity level of the rated instruments

Instrument	Complexity indicator
Commercial Paper	Simple

The Complexity Indicator refers to the ease with which the returns associated with the rated instrument could be estimated. It does not indicate the risk related to the timely payments on the instrument, which is rather indicated by the instrument'scredit rating. It also does not indicate the complexity associated with analysing an entity's financial, business, industry risks or complexity related to the structural, transactional, or legal aspects. Details on the complexity levels of the instruments are available on ICRA's website: Click here

Annexure I: Instrument details

ISIN	Instrument name	Date of issuance / sanction	Coupon rate	Maturity date	Amount rated (Rs. crore)	Current rating and outlook
Yet to be placed	Commercial Paper	NA	NA	NA	1,000.00	[ICRA]A1+

Source: Company

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis

Not Applicable

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ABOUT ICRA LIMITED

ICRA Limited was set up in 1991 by leading financial/investment institutions, commercial banks and financial services companies as an independent and professional investment Information and Credit Rating Agency.

Today, ICRA and its subsidiaries together form the ICRA Group of Companies (Group ICRA). ICRA is a Public Limited Company, with its shares listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. The international Credit Rating Agency Moody's Investors Service is ICRA's largest shareholder.

For more information, visit www.icra.in

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