

INDUS TOWERS LIMITED

ISIN: INE121J01017 | NSE: INDUSTOWER

Price: 398

Recommendation: Buy

Industry: Telecom - Infrastructure

Sector: Telecommunication **Report Date:** 19-Apr-2025

Indus Towers Limited has shown strong performance in Q3 2024, with significant tower and tenancy additions, maintaining a dominant market share. The company is enhancing business strategies, focusing on cost efficiency, and increasing renewable energy use. With favorable regulations and sustainability initiatives, Indus Towers is poised for growth. Challenges remain in energy margins, but the company is optimizing its balance sheet and exploring EV infrastructure.

| Sales | | Profit & Loss | | Profitability Matrix | |
|--------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Current Year | 29589 Cr | Operating Profit(Year) | 20392 Cr | Operating Profit Margin | 68.9 % |
| Previous Year | 28382 Cr | Operating Profit(Quarter) | 6954 Cr | EBITDA Margin | 53.27 % |
| Current Quarter | 7547 Cr | PAT (Year) | 5829 Cr | Net Profit Margin | 20.4 % |
| Previous Quarter | 7465 Cr | PAT (Quarter) | 3997 Cr | EPS | 37.1 |
| Revenue (QYoY) | 7199 Cr | | | | |
| Valuation Matrix | | Growth(YoY) | | Growth(QoQ) | |
| Trailing P/E | 10.7 | Sales Growth | 5.07 % | Sales Growth | 1.1 % |
| PEG Ratio | 0.59 | PAT Growth | 177.18 % | Sales Growth QYoY | 4.83 % |
| EV/EBITDA | 6.19 | EPS Growth | 65.63 % | PAT Growth | 79.88 % |
| P/B | 3.77 | Dividend Yield | 0.00 | PAT Growth QYoY | 159.38 % |
| Capital Allocation | | Holdings | | Leverage | |
| RoE | 24.2 % | Promoter | 50.0 % | Debt/Equity | 0.75 |
| RoA | 11.4 % | FII | 26.2 % | Debt | 21358 Cr |
| RoCE | 22.1 % | DII | 17.8 % | Market Cap | 107232 Cr |
| RoIC | 16.1 % | Public | 6.01 % | Enterprise value | 128565 Cr |
| | | No of Shares | 269 Cr | Cash Equivalents | 25.0 Cr |

source: Company filings

Company's Overview Based on Recent Concall and Performance:

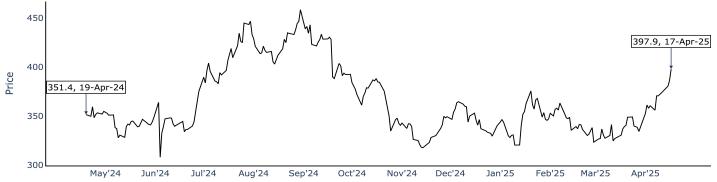
Indus Towers Limited has demonstrated a robust performance in the third quarter ending December 31, 2024, with significant tower and tenancy additions. The company has maintained a dominant share in its major customers' rollouts, which has been pivotal in driving tenancy additions. This reflects the trust and preference of operators for Indus Towers as a partner. The company has also successfully collected a substantial amount against past dues from a major customer, aided by the monetization of a secondary pledge on shares held by Vodafone Plc. The company's efforts in challenging geographical locations like Leh, Ladakh, and Arunachal Pradesh have been commendable, ensuring digital inclusion in these areas.

The company is actively pursuing new initiatives to enhance its business strategies and diversification schemes. Indus Towers is focusing on cost efficiency by optimizing both operating and capital expenses. A significant initiative is the electrification of non-electrified sites and the deployment of energy storage solutions, which have led to an 8% year-on-year reduction in diesel consumption. The company is also increasing its share of renewable energy sources, with solar sites growing to over 28,000. Additionally, the transition to Li-ion batteries and lighter tower variants is expected to provide both operating and cost efficiencies. The company is also exploring the EV infrastructure business as a separate unit, maintaining a cautious approach to ensure the tower business remains unaffected.

Looking ahead, Indus Towers is well-positioned for future growth and scaling. The ongoing network expansion by major customers is expected to be a key pillar of growth. The company is optimistic about capturing a meaningful share of tenancy additions in the coming quarters. The regulatory landscape is also favorable, with the implementation of the Right of Way Rules, 2024, and the Green Energy Open Access policy in several states, which are expected to drive the use of renewable energy and optimize energy consumption. The company is also focusing on sustainability, with initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and increase the use of EV vehicles for business travel.

While the company has delivered a strong operational performance, there are areas for improvement. The energy margins remain a challenge, with efforts ongoing to improve them through increased renewable energy usage. The company is also working on optimizing its balance sheet and leverage to enhance returns for investors. The EV infrastructure business is in its early stages, and the company is learning and adapting as it progresses. Overall, Indus Towers is on a positive trajectory, with a strong order book and a clear strategy for growth and sustainability.

INDUSTOWER Daily Closing One Year Price Chart



| Name | Mar Cap (Rs. Cr.) | P/E | ROE | Sales(G) QoQ | Sales(G) QYoY | PAT(G) QoQ | PAT(G) QYoY |
|------------------|-------------------|-------|--------|--------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Kore Digital | 412.96 | 27.33 | 28.54% | -26.97% | -44.43% | 37.50% | -25.96% |
| GTL Infra. | 1908.56 | | | 0.62% | 0.28% | 1.82% | -7.99% |
| Sar Televenture | 1376.25 | | 37.44% | 25.28% | 128.28% | 9.36% | 193.38% |
| Indus Towers | 107231.54 | 10.72 | 24.18% | 1.10% | 4.84% | 79.85% | 159.31% |
| Suyog Telematics | 1022.99 | 14.60 | 23.77% | 2.18% | 16.92% | -15.24% | -10.10% |

| Aspect | Commentary |
|----------------------|---|
| Revenue | The company experienced a modest revenue increase, with current year sales at 29589 Cr, up from 28382 Cr the previous year. Quarterly sales also rose slightly, indicating stable growth. This steady rise suggests effective market strategies and customer retention, contributing to the company's financial health. |
| Profit & Loss | Operating profit for the year reached 20392 Cr, with a quarterly figure of 6954 Cr. The PAT for the year was 5829 Cr, showing strong profitability. The quarterly PAT of 3997 Cr highlights efficient cost management and revenue generation, reflecting a robust financial position. |
| Profitability Matrix | Operating profit margin stands at 68.9%, with an EBITDA margin of 53.27%. The net profit margin is 20.4%, indicating strong operational efficiency. An EPS of 37.1 suggests good earnings performance, enhancing shareholder value and reflecting effective cost control. |
| Valuation Matrix | The trailing P/E ratio is 10.7, with a PEG ratio of 0.59, indicating undervaluation relative to growth. An EV/EBITDA of 6.19 and P/B of 3.77 suggest reasonable valuation levels, making the company an attractive investment opportunity with potential for appreciation. |
| Growth (YoY) | Sales growth of 5.07% and PAT growth of 177.18% highlight significant year-over-year improvement. EPS growth of 65.63% further underscores strong financial performance, driven by effective strategies and market positioning, enhancing investor confidence. |
| Growth (QoQ) | Quarterly sales growth of 1.1% and PAT growth of 79.88% indicate strong short-term performance. The QYoY sales growth of 4.83% and PAT growth of 159.38% reflect effective operational strategies, contributing to the company's robust financial health. |
| Capital Allocation | The company demonstrates efficient capital allocation with RoE at 24.2%, RoA at 11.4%, and RoCE at 22.1%. RoIC of 16.1% indicates effective use of invested capital, enhancing shareholder returns and supporting sustainable growth strategies. |
| Holdings | Promoter holding is at 50%, with FII at 26.2% and DII at 17.8%. Public holding is 6.01%, reflecting a balanced ownership structure. The number of shares stands at 269 Cr, indicating a stable shareholder base and potential for future investment inflows. |
| Leverage | A debt/equity ratio of 0.75 and total debt of 21358 Cr suggest moderate leverage. The market cap of 107232 Cr and enterprise value of 128565 Cr indicate strong market positioning. Cash equivalents of 25 Cr highlight liquidity management, supporting financial stability. |

Analyst viewpoint: Indus Towers Limited is well-poised for growth in the short to mid-term, reflecting its robust quarterly performance and strategic initiatives. The company achieved a quarterly sales growth of 1.1% and an impressive PAT growth of 79.88%, indicating strong financial health and effective cost management. With a trailing P/E of 10.7 and a PEG ratio of 0.59, Indus Towers presents an attractive valuation with significant upside potential. Its commitment to renewable energy and optimized capital allocation, evidenced by a RoE of 24.2%, positions it strongly against peers in the telecom infrastructure space. The market's favorable regulatory landscape, coupled with a strategic focus on growth areas like EV infrastructure, underpins its positive outlook.

Despite its strong positioning, challenges in energy margins remain a focus area for improvement. However, with ongoing initiatives aimed at renewable energy enhancements and operational efficiencies, Indus Towers is likely to mitigate these concerns effectively. The company's strategic advancements and solid peer-to-peer performance bolster its competitive edge, making it a compelling buy in the telecom sector. Investors can expect Indus Towers to maintain its upward trajectory, supported by a balanced approach to enhancing both operational and financial metrics.

Please read detailed disclosure on next page.

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|-------------------|--|
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| SELL | <-10% |
| NEUTRAL | >-10% to 15% |
| UNDER REVIEW | Rating may undergo a change |
| NOT RATED | We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain |
| | from assigning recommendation |

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