

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

9th December, 2005

PRESS RELEASE No. 100/2005

**Telecom Subscribers growth accelerates in November,
2005 – Gross touches 120 million
Teledensity reaches 11%**

**More than 3.5 million additions in mobile alone
3.80 million additions including fixed line**

1. Subscriber Base: -

As per a compilation done by TRAI based on latest reports from operators, the subscriber base for telephony services has shown a record growth of 3.79 million subscribers during November 2005. In the month of November 2005, 3.79 million subscribers were added as compared to 3.24 million subscribers in October, 2005. During the first 8 months of year 2005-2006 around 21.50 million subscribers have been added.

For mobile segment 3.51 million subscribers have been added during November 2005 as compared to 2.90 million in October, 2005. The mobile additions consist of 2.33 million GSM subscribers and 1.18 million CDMA subscribers as against 2.11 million GSM and 0.79 million CDMA last month.

During the first eight months of current financial year about 19.24 million mobile subscribers were added, making it a total of 71.46 million mobile subscribers at the end of November 2005.

In the fixed segment, a total of 0.28 million subscribers were added during November 2005, which were predominantly WLL (F). With this the total subscriber base of fixed lines have reached 48.47 million.

The gross subscribers' base consisting of fixed as well as mobile has reached around 120 million.

2. Teledensity: -

The gross subscriber base consisting of fixed as well as mobile has become around 120 million at the end of November, 2005. The tele-density at the end of November, 2005 has reached around 11% as compared to 10.66 at the end of previous month.

3. Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) for mobile services: -

At the end of second quarter of FY 2005-06, the ARPU for mobile segments have come down to US\$ 8 from US\$ 9 one year back. It is lowest when compared to the average ARPU for mobile services in various regions as well as global average as shown below:

| Region | Average ARPU for Q2, 2005 (in US\$) |
|----------------|--|
| Africa | 20.90 |
| Asia-Pacific | 18.90 |
| Eastern Europe | 13.10 |
| Latin America | 13.30 |
| Middle East | 22.10 |
| US & Canada | 49.60 |
| Western Europe | 37.40 |
| Global Average | 21.30 |
| India | 8.0 |

4. Broadband (>256 Kbps download) Growth: -

Broadband connections have continued the similar growth rate since beginning of 2005. At the end of November, 2005, total Broadband connections in the country have crossed 7.50 lakhs only as against a target of 3.00 million fixed in Broadband Policy-2004.

(In Lakhs)

| | Mar 2005 | June 2005 | July 2005 | Aug 2005 | Sept. 2005 | Oct. 2005 | Nov. 2005 | Broadband Policy target for Dec 2005 |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| Broadband Connections | 1.86 | 3.96 | 4.50 | 5.30 | 6.1 | 6.90 | 7.50 | 30 |

(S. N. Gupta)
Advisor (CN)