Information Note to the Press



TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



New Delhi, 26th April, 2016 (www.trai.gov.in)

Highlights of Telecom Subscription Data as on 29th February, 2016

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless+ Wireline)
Total Telephone Subscribers (Million)	1026.66	25.22	1051.88
Net Addition in February, 2016 (Million)	8.70	-0.10	8.59
Monthly Growth Rate	0.85%	-0.41%	0.82%
Urban Telephone Subscribers (Million)	587.55	20.87	608.42
Net Addition in February, 2016 (Million)	4.60	-0.03	4.57
Monthly Growth Rate	0.79%	-0.15%	0.76%
Rural Telephone Subscribers (Million)	439.11	4.34	443.46
Net Addition in February, 2016 (Million)	4.09	-0.07	4.02
Monthly Growth Rate	0.94%	-1.63%	0.91%
Overall Tele-density*	80.91	1.99	82.89
Urban Tele-density*	148.65	5.28	153.93
Rural Tele-density*	50.26	0.50	50.76
Share of Urban Subscribers	57.23%	82.77%	57.84%
Share of Rural Subscribers	42.77%	17.23%	42.16%
Broadband Subscribers (Million)	128.12	16.75	144.87

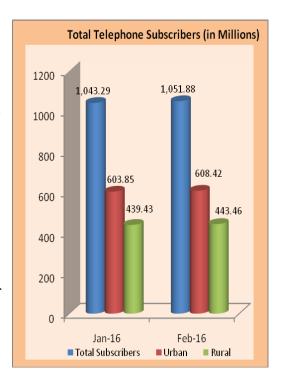
- ❖ In the month of February, 2016, 5.10 million subscribers submitted their requests for Mobile Number Portability (MNP). With this, the cumulative MNP requests increased from 199.62 million at the end of January, 2016 to 204.73 million at the end of February, 2016, since implementation of MNP.
- ❖ Number of active wireless subscribers (on the date of peak VLR*) in February, 2016 was 925.22 million.

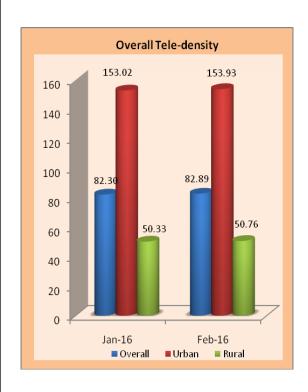
Note:

- Information in this Press Release is based on the data provided by the Service Providers
- * Based on the population projections from Census data published by the Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India.
- # VLR is acronym of Visitor Location Register. The dates of peak VLR for various TSPs are different in different service areas.

I. Total Telephone Subscribers

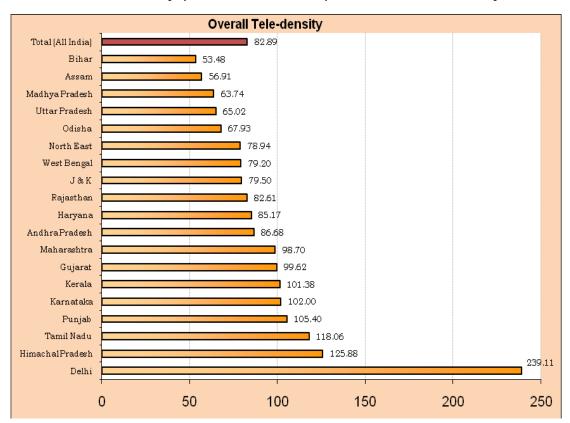
The number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,043.29 million at the end of Jan-16 to 1,051.88 million at the end of Feb-16, thereby showing a monthly growth rate of 0.82%. The urban subscription increased from 603.85 million at the end of Jan-16 to 608.42 million at the end of Feb-16 and the rural subscription increased from 439.43 million to 443.46 million during the same period. The monthly growth rates of urban and rural subscription were 0.76% and 0.91% respectively during the month of Feb-16.





• The overall Tele-density in India increased from 82.30 at the end of Jan-16 to 82.89 at the end of Feb-16. The Urban Tele-density increased from 153.02 at the end of Jan-16 to 153.93 at the end of Feb-16. The Rural Tele-density increased from 50.33 at the end of Jan-16 to 50.76 at the end of Feb-16. The share of urban subscribers and rural subscribers at the end of Feb-16 was 57.84% and 42.16% respectively.



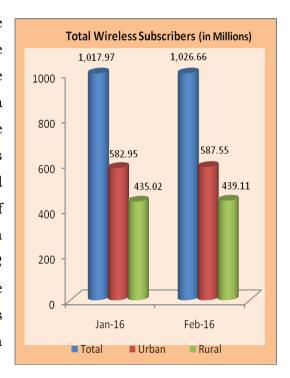


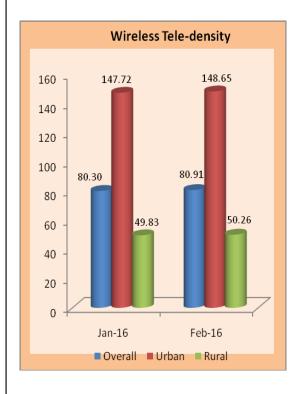
Notes:

- 1. Population data/projections are available state wise only.
- 2. Tele-density figures are derived from the telephone subscriber data provided by the access service providers and the projections of population published by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.
- 3. Telephone subscriber data for Delhi, includes, apart from the data for the State of Delhi, wireless subscriber data for the areas served by the local exchanges of Ghaziabad & Noida (in Uttar Pradesh) and Gurgaon & Faridabad (in Haryana). West Bengal includes Kolkata, Maharashtra includes Mumbai and Tamil Nadu includes Chennai.

II. Wireless Subscribers

wireless Total subscriber base increased from 1,017.97 million at the end of Jan-16 to 1,026.66 million at the end of Feb-16, thereby registering a monthly growth rate of 0.85%. The Wireless subscription in urban areas increased from 582.95 million at the end of Jan-16 to 587.55 million at the end of Feb-16, and wireless subscription in rural areas also increased from 435.02 million to 439.11 million during the same period. The monthly growth rates of urban and rural wireless subscription were 0.79% and 0.94% respectively.



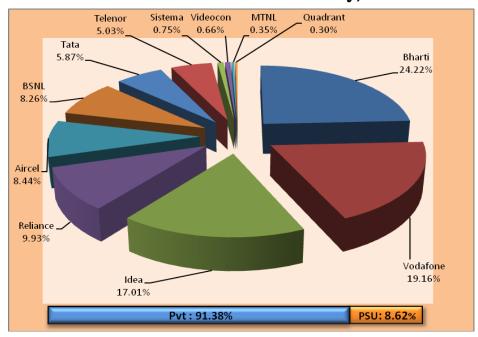


• The Wireless Tele-density in India increased from 80.30 at the end of Jan-16 to 80.91 at the end of Feb-16. The Urban Wireless Tele-density increased from 147.72 at the end of Jan-16 to 148.65 at the end of Feb-16, and Rural Wireless Tele-density also increased from 49.83 to 50.26 during the same period. The share of urban and rural wireless subscribers was 57.23% and 42.77% respectively at the end of Feb-16. Detailed statistics of wireless subscriber base is available at

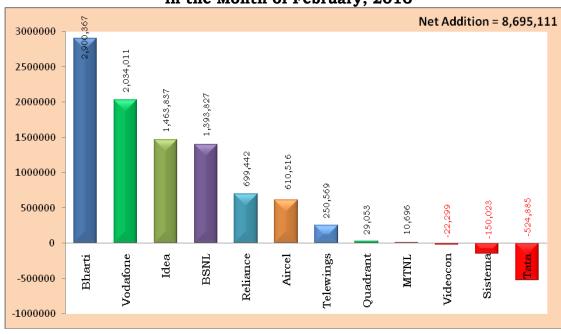
Annexure-I.

• As on 29th February, 2016, the private access service providers held 91.38% market share of the wireless subscribers whereas BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, had only a market share of 8.62%. The graphical representation of access service provider-wise market share and net additions in wireless subscriber base are given below:

Access Service Provider-wise Market Shares in term of Wireless Subscriber base as on 29th February, 2016



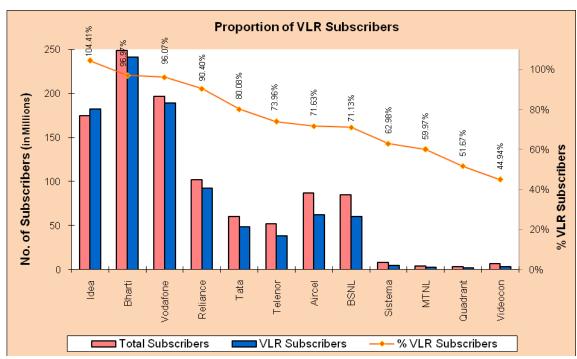
Net Additions in Wireless Subscriber Bases of Access Service Providers in the Month of February, 2016



III. Active Wireless Subscribers (VLR Data)

- Out of the total wireless subscriber base (1,026.66 million), 925.22 million wireless subscribers were active on the date of peak VLR in the month of Feb-16. The proportion of active wireless subscribers was approximately 90.12% of the total wireless subscriber base.
- The detailed statistics on proportion of active wireless subscribers (also referred to as VLR subscribers) on the date of peak VLR in the month of Feb-16 is available at **Annexure-II** and the methodology used for reporting VLR subscribers is available at **Annexure-IV**.

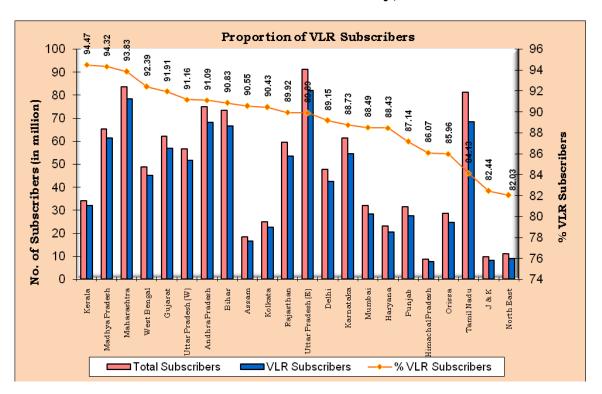
Access Service Provider-wise Proportion of VLR Subscribers in the Month of February, 2016



Note-

1. Number of VLR subscribers of Idea Cellular was more than its subscriber base due to a large number of inroamers in its network.

Service Area wise proportion of VLR Subscribers in the Month of February, 2016

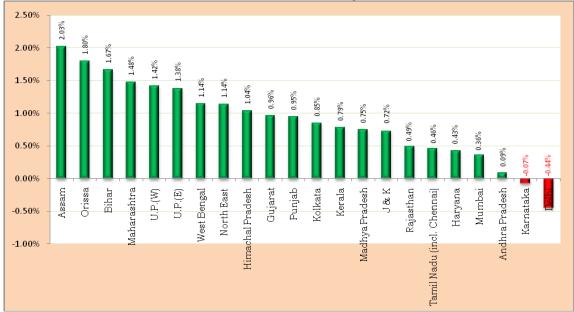


IV. Growth in Wireless Subscribers

Access Service Provider-wise Monthly Growth Rate of Wireless Subscriber base in the Month of February, 2016







• Assam service area recorded the highest growth rate in wireless subscribers during the month of Feb-16, while Karnataka and Delhi service areas showed a decline.

V. Mobile Number Portability (MNP)

- Intra-service area Mobile number portability (MNP) has been implemented in Haryana service area w.e.f. 25.11.2010 and in the rest of the country w.e.f. 20.01.2011. Inter-Service Area MNP has been implemented in the country w.e.f. 03.07.2015. Now, the wireless telephone subscribers can retain their mobile numbers when they relocate from one service area to another.
- In the month of Feb-16, a total of 5.10 million requests were received for MNP. With this, the cumulative MNP requests increased from 199.62 million at the end of Jan-16 to 204.73 million at the end of Feb-16, since the implementation of MNP.
- In MNP Zone-I (Northern and Western India), the highest number of requests till date have been received in Rajasthan (about 18.02 million) followed by Gujarat (about 15.83 million).

• In MNP Zone-II (Southern and Eastern India), the highest number of requests till date have been received in Karnataka (about 23.01 million) followed by Andhra Pradesh (about 19.65 million).

Service Area Wi	se MNP Status at	the end of Februar	y, 2016				
Zone -	[Zone – II					
Service Area	Number of Porting Requests	Service Area	Number of Porting Requests				
Delhi	8108782	Andhra Pradesh	19649575				
Gujarat	15826982	Assam	962752				
Haryana	7270220	Bihar	7091917				
Himachal Pradesh	695105	Karnataka	23012856				
Jammu & Kashmir	67428	Kerala	6373182				
Maharashtra	14658405	Kolkata	4625889				
Mumbai	11188037	Madhya Pradesh	13003453				
Punjab	7184842	North East	415384				
Rajasthan	18016866	Orissa	4205420				
Uttar Pradesh - East	9555609	Tamil Nadu	12857735				
Uttar Pradesh - West	9423306	West Bengal	10532380				
Total	101,995,582	Total	102,730,543				
Total (Zone-I + Zone-II)			204,726,125				
Net Addition (in February, 2016)	 I		5,102,138				

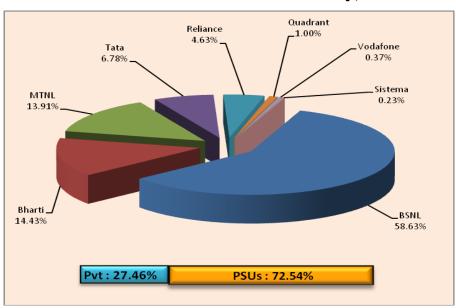
Note: For Zone-II, available MNP data for February, 2016 are provisional.

VI. Wireline Subscribers

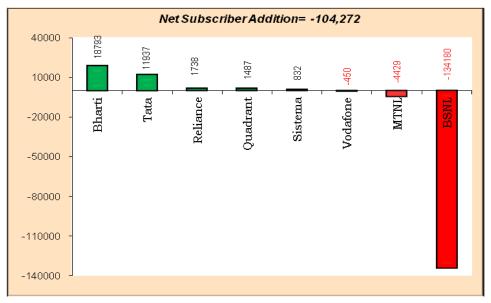
- Wireline subscriber base declined from 25.32 million at the end of Jan-16 to 25.22 million at the end of Feb-16. Net reduction in the wireline subscriber base was 0.10 million with a monthly decline rate of 0.41%. The share of urban and rural subscribers in total wireline subscribers was 82.77% and 17.23% respectively at the end of Feb-16.
- The Overall Wireline Tele-density declined marginally from 2.00 in Jan-16 to 1.99 in Feb-16. Urban Wireline Tele-density and Rural Wireline Tele-density being 5.28 and 0.50 respectively.

- BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, held 72.54% of the wireline market share. Detailed statistics of wireline subscriber base are available at **Annexure-III**.
- The graphical representation of service provider-wise market shares in the wireline segment and net additions in wireline subscriber bases in the month of Feb-16 are given below:

Access Service Provider-wise Market Shares in term of Wireline Subscriber base as on 29th February, 2016



Access Service Provider-wise Net Additions/declines in Wireline Subscriber Base in the Month of February, 2016



VII. Category-wise Growth

Circle Category-wise Net Additions in Telephone Subscribers in the month of February, 2016

Circle		in the month of ry, 2016	Telephone Subscriber base a on 29th February, 2016					
Category	Wireline segment	Wireless segment	Wireline segment	Wireless segment				
Circle A	-45,126	2,202,740	10,006,331	362,972,801				
Circle B	-51,651	4,027,732	6,863,564	409,610,317				
Circle C	-10,271	2,352,075	1,227,515	149,481,734				
Metro	2,776	112,564	7,117,815	104,599,016				
All India	-104,272	8,6951,11	25,215,225	1,026,663,868				

Circle Category-wise Growth Rates in Telephone Subscribers in the month of February, 2016

Circle		wth rate (%) to Feb-16)	Yearly growth rate (%) (Feb-15 to Feb-16)					
Category	Wireline Segment	Wireless Segment	Wireline Segment	Wireless Segment				
Circle A	-0.45	0.61	-5.71	5.57				
Circle B	-0.75	0.99	-9.44	8.13				
Circle C	-0.83	1.60	-10.44	7.33				
Metro	0.04	0.11	-0.60	6.03				
All India	-0.41	0.85	-5.64	6.88				

Note: Circle Category-Metro includes Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Data for Chennai has been included in Circle Category-A, as part of TamilNadu.

• As can be seen in the above tables, in wireless segment, the Circles of Category-B showed the maximum net addition while the Circles in Category-C showed the maximum growth rate in the month Feb-16. In Wireline segment, Circles of Category-B showed the highest net decline while the circles in Category-C showed the highest monthly decline rate in subscriber base in the month of Feb-16. However, Metro Circles showed positive growth in wireline segment during the same period.

VIII. Broadband (≥ 512 Kbps download)

• As per the reports received from the service providers, the number of broadband subscribers increased from 140.10 Million at the end of Jan-16 to 144.87 million at the end of Feb-16 with a monthly growth rate of 3.40%. Segment-wise broadband subscribers and their monthly growth rates are as below:

Segment-wise Broadband Subscriber base and Monthly Growth Rates in the month of February, 2016

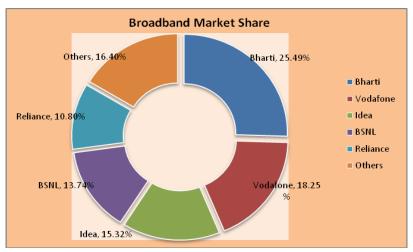
	Broadband (in mi	Monthly growth			
Segment	As on 31st January, 2016	As on 29 th February, 2016	rate in the month of Feb-16 (%)		
Wired subscribers	16.63	16.75	0.74%		
Mobile devices users (Phones and dongles)	122.98	127.61	3.76%		
Fixed Wireless subscribers (Wi-Fi, Wi-Max, Point-to- Point Radio & VSAT)	0.49	0.51	3.96%		
Total	140.10	144.87	3.40%		

• Top five service providers constituted 83.60% market share of the total broadband subscribers at the end of Feb-16. These service providers were Bharti Airtel (36.92 million), Vodafone (26.44 million), Idea Cellular (22.20 million), BSNL (19.91 million) and Reliance Communications Group (15.64 million).

Note: Some wireless service providers exclude incidental data users from their subscriber base, based on minimum usage decided by them.

• The graphical representation of the service provider-wise market share of broadband services is given below:

Service Provider-wise Market Share of Broadband (wired+wireless) Services as on 29.02.2016



- As on 29th February, 2016, the top five <u>Wired</u> Broadband Service providers were BSNL (9.91 million), Bharti Airtel (1.71 million), MTNL (1.11 million), Atria Convergence Technologies (0.91 million) and YOU Broadband (0.52 million).
- As on 29th February, 2016, the top five <u>Wireless</u> Broadband Service providers were Bharti Airtel (35.22 million), Vodafone (26.44 million), Idea Cellular (22.20 million), Reliance Communications Group (15.52 million) and BSNL (10.00 million).

Contact details in case of any clarification:

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Authorized to issue:

(Vinod Kotwal) Advisor (EA)

Wireless Subscriber Base

Annexure-I

						Grou	ıp					
<u> </u>	Bh	arti	Relia	ance	Voda	fone	Та	ıta	ld	ea	Air	cel
Circle	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Jan-16 Feb-16		Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16
Andhra Pradesh	23427595	23565923	5453314	5505992	7107049	7151028	5135204	5055271	15386659	15460845	2818861	2780988
Assam	5787130	5868703	1304997	1323923	3508774	3589406			1110977	1148252	4944278	5077054
Bihar	27340013	27823152	4338858	4443980	9269029	9385723	1765920	1686839	10913516	11181318	6926829	6968769
Delhi	11223514	11215868	8579083	8475237	10061022	10067193	2430215	2210894	6193560	6206267	6168663	6279187
Gujarat	8475513	8547322	5520957	5734826	19298413	19408608	2829234	2851559	12111114	12136328	17063	17063
Haryana	2870723	2890693	2045385	1953530	5367768	5433466	2756227	2737340	4592164	4617519	3092	3092
Himachal Pradesh	2726705	2722433	1744297	1749347	699485	707815	70766	68906	781445	791062	1065417	1088770
J & K	3341717	3336575	887736	927846	1056408	1057201			606252	618001	2521220	2524344
Karnataka	20858083	20873398	5777449	5880750	7628287	7657352	7331007	7266697	8530912	8474547	3044664	3072137
Kerala	4239703	4252748	2175837	2204897	7493254	7507592	1557011	1565841	10305124	10362356	226579	258032
Kolkata	4589173	4640914	4572537	4572025	5283867	5360276	2775817	2776797	2160394	2170173	4058155	4134247
Madhya Pradesh	12231563	12359120	12323660	12246323	6789504	6850557	4730025	4715828	20849918	21089876	20694	20694
Maharashtra	12923674	13235522	5502567	5585631	18131138	18377409	6429856	6580574	23197316	23344618	2553946	2607191
Mumbai	5640763	5704299	5852646	5802671	8658602	8668030	3271927	3331467	4299425	4269970	2778445	2829840
North East	3844096	3876134	336438	363365	1500392	1525366			492579	501369	3112530	3109130
Orissa	9927674	10131407	1744963	1810611	3960561	4049948	2272747	2249134	1666525	1703251	4509240	4560539
Punjab	7947457	7998157	1620768	1589121	5076263	5123789	2632940	2667707	6369198	6440321	1043797	1051297
Rajasthan	19024478	19218246	6844579	6686427	11806683	11922052	1505751	1498041	7836178	7819633	6318616	6403330
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	16933900	17174868	6637837	6651953	15327889	15466507	5107973	4956244	5994262	5995868	21402847	21527561
U.P.(E)	20277093	20619383	9028105	9219019	18572976	18871460	4173729	4115330	10488809	10687993	6754542	6830208
U.P.(W)	7991197	8159465	5858885	5970058	11228385	11331528	3551895	3478791	13942005	14209495	598023	648563
West Bengal	14168114	14475915	3055135	3207943	16886523	17233977	475266	465365	5335322	5398429	5179761	4885742
Total	245789878	248690245	101206033	101905475	194712272	196746283	60803510	60278625	173163654	174627491	86067262	86677778
Net Addition		2900367		699442		2034011		-524885		1463837		610516

Wireless Subscriber Base

Annexure-I (contd.)

							Grou	р							
	BS	NL	МП	ΓNL	Tele	nor	Sist	ema	Vide	ocon	Qua	drant	Tot	tal]
Circle	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Net Addition
Andhra Pradesh	9628595	9625078			5830884	5712060							74788161	74857185	69024
Assam	1286165	1298631											17942321	18305969	363648
Bihar	2905457	3095018			8557985	8633814			21352	20774			72038959	73239387	1200428
Delhi			2339526	2339788			945937	934410					47941520	47728844	-212676
Gujarat	3421758	3502686			8480313	8644338	208819	206740	974576	879413			61337760	61928883	591123
Haryana	3096666	3160674							2202665	2236766			22934690	23033080	98390
Himachal Pradesh	1581373	1631227											8669488	8759560	90072
J & K	1259738	1279230											9673071	9743197	70126
Karnataka	7029794	6963766					1217671	1184568					61417867	61373215	-44652
Kerala	7326292	7440807					360026	356748					33683826	33949021	265195
Kolkata	768631	775958					550417	538938					24758991	24969328	210337
Madhya Pradesh	4149144	4254389							3513361	3557834			64607869	65094621	486752
Maharashtra	5572659	5720172			8017305	8093312							82328461	83544429	1215968
Mumbai			1284133	1294567									31785941	31900844	114903
North East	1476160	1509729											10762195	10885093	122898
Orissa	3961915	4043638											28043625	28548528	504903
Punjab	3409804	3497932									3097712	3126765	31197939	31495089	297150
Rajasthan	3695077	3820584					2155515	2109340					59186877	59477653	290776
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	8729472	8740237					763632	755851					80897812	81269089	371277
U.P.(E)	8490081	8689512			12073385	12071627			15417	13155			89874137	91117687	1243550
U.P.(W)	4043565	4157713			8467092	8522382	157414	157017	22913	20043			55861374	56655055	793681
West Bengal	1600395	1619587		_			1535357	1501153		_			48235873	48788111	552238
Total	83432741	84826568	3623659	3634355	51426964	51677533	7894788	7744765	6750284	6727985	3097712	3126765	1017968757	1026663868	8695111
Net Addition		1393827		10696		250569		-150023		-22299		29053		8695111	

Proportion of VLR on the date of Peak VLR in the month of Feb-16 (%)

Annexure-II

Circle	Aircel	Bharti	BSNL	Quadrant	Idea	MTNL	Reliance	Sistema	Tata	Telenor	Videocon	Vodafone	Total
Andhra Pradesh	60.34	99.45	70.62		104.19		98.67		86.74	74.91		84.94	91.09
Assam	87.53	97.40	82.81		99.12		6.18					114.79	90.55
Bihar	81.87	97.45	74.88		101.28		45.86		73.11	72.74	4.53	111.96	90.83
Delhi	65.41	93.98			99.22	53.57	97.61	52.39	57.62			103.85	89.15
Gujarat	2690.54	96.57	77.90		106.73		99.12	43.00	75.39	67.38	28.36	95.47	91.91
Haryana	0.55	99.49	56.14		109.80		96.21		86.51		53.26	95.88	88.43
Himachal Pradesh	53.64	94.97	73.79		107.70		95.68		36.48			86.86	86.07
J & K	87.66	85.20	72.78		99.07		61.22					81.83	82.44
Karnataka	59.59	93.34	60.97		106.06		97.77	69.48	88.99			89.76	88.73
Kerala	69.65	96.23	82.21		107.65		94.47	64.47	86.59			91.38	94.47
Kolkata	72.78	96.55	90.30		89.17		98.93	93.49	82.62			95.73	90.43
Madhya Pradesh	1.06	100.37	75.69		107.78		98.92		84.53		44.40	78.23	94.32
Maharashtra	58.16	97.20	80.26		105.23		98.47		77.62	74.34		99.20	93.83
Mumbai	59.25	97.48			96.07	71.56	99.09		78.61			87.60	88.49
North East	70.15	95.35	69.80		98.59		8.49					96.54	82.03
Orissa	64.04	98.47	79.25		102.41		20.18		82.46			110.52	85.96
Punjab	60.84	92.29	73.42	51.67	108.32		98.90		75.31			91.38	87.14
Rajasthan	52.08	97.10	76.67		104.21		99.09	60.02	111.54			91.00	89.92
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	71.57	97.70	62.56		93.38		95.70	55.76	72.37			95.32	84.13
U.P. (E)	80.70	97.15	60.65		107.47		98.99		74.09	77.42	7.76	95.81	89.89
U.P. (W)	111.04	97.69	64.12		101.27		99.14	53.49	74.35	75.96	5.76	95.64	91.16
West Bengal	81.21	99.55	91.06		107.45		23.85	64.68	53.70			101.18	92.39
Total	71.63	96.97	71.13	51.67	104.41	59.97	90.40	62.98	80.08	73.96	44.94	96.07	90.12

Note: Peak VLR figures in some circles of some of the service providers are more than their HLR figures due to a large number of inroamers.

Wireline Subscriber Base

Annexure-III

								Group											_
Circle	BS	SNL	M'	rnl	Bh	arti	Reli	ance	Ta	ata	Quad	irant	Sist	ema	Voda	afone	To	tal	
	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-16	Net Addition
Andhra Pradesh	1349823	1337334			143357	144421	75996	75955	163609	163835					9,480	9,330	1742265	1730875	-11390
Assam	161285	158178													1,860	1,860	163145	160038	-3107
Bihar	313147	312638					6,813	6,813	13,034	13,038					1050	1050	334044	333539	-505
Delhi			1614094	1615252	1218525	1223012	174829	174783	127938	130991					22,140	21,810	3157526	3165848	8322
Gujarat	1181557	1172038			69673	70694	74948	74851	86128	86407					3,180	3,240	1415486	1407230	-8256
Haryana	309,087	306,304			19431	19799	4427	4427	38719	38587					30	30	371694	369147	-2547
Himachal Pradesh	168,157	164,877					4192	4125	2724	2721					90	90	175163	171813	-3350
J & K	130,717	130,509															130717	130509	-208
Karnataka	1307729	1294883			593453	594467	145545	146996	201870	204732					9,660	9,840	2258257	2250918	-7339
Kerala	2233596	2194482			56278	56428	34056	34056	17399	17773					750	1200	2342079	2303939	-38140
Kolkata	676381	672447			116643	117092	70111	69643	48753	49694					3990	3930	915878	912806	-3072
Madhya Pradesh	744489	742034			256461	258891	20445	20440	19312	18380					390	390	1041097	1040135	-962
Maharashtra	1538942	1534025			73730	74377	82285	83066	281597	282594					10,890	10,830	1987444	1984892	-2552
Mumbai			1898592	1893005	348343	348783	248835	249542	528675	530821					17,190	17010	3041635	3039161	-2474
North East	125,414	124,995													150	150	125564	125145	-419
Orissa	296787	294136					3290	3290	8116	8115					960	930	309153	306471	-2682
Punjab	673312	665065			105153	106809	21150	21214	16842	16934	251302	252789			810	810	1068569	1063621	-4948
Rajasthan	648769	646594			45460	45660	20840	20838	11216	11460			57696	58528	1,860	1,980	785841	785060	-781
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	1910110	1889070			492268	496373	134346	134326	103271	105057					8010	7590	2648005	2632416	-15589
U.P.(E)	389645	391177			60445	60965	35568	35141	15247	15183					1,170	1,140	502075	503606	1531
U.P.(W)	391564	388390			21359	21601	7227	7105	10040	10027					480	480	430670	427603	-3067
West Bengal	367488	364643					1904	1934	3768	3846					30	30	373190	370453	-2737
Total	14917999	14783819	3512686	3508257	3620579	3639372	1166807	1168545	1698258	1710195	251302	252789	57696	58528	94170	93720	25319497	25215225	-104272
Net Addition		-134180		-4429		18793		1738		11937		1487		832		-450		-104272	

VLR Subscribers in the Wireless Segment

Home Location Register (HLR) is a central database that contains details of each mobile phone subscriber that is authorized to use the GSM core network. The HLRs store details of every SIM card issued by the service provider. Each SIM has a unique identifier called an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI), which is the primary key to each HLR record. The HLR data is stored for as long as a subscriber remains with the service provider. HLR also manages the mobility of subscribers by means of updating their position in administrative areas. It sends the subscriber data to a Visitor Location Register (VLR).

Subscriber numbers reported by the service providers is the difference between the numbers of IMSI registered in service provider's HLR and sum of other figures as given below:-

1	Total IMSI's in HLR (A)
2	Less: $(B = a + b + c + d + e)$
a.	Test/Service Cards
b.	Employees
c.	Stock in hand/in Distribution Channels (Active Card)
d.	Subscriber Retention period expired
e.	Service suspended pending disconnection
3	Subscribers Base (A-B)

Visitor Location Register (VLR) is a temporary database of the subscribers who have roamed into the particular area, which it serves. Each base station in the network is served by exactly one VLR; hence a subscriber cannot be present in more than one VLR at a time.

If subscriber is in active stage i.e. he is able to send/receive calls/SMSs he is available both in HLR and VLR. However, it may be possible that the subscriber is registered in HLR but not in VLR due to the reason that he is either switched-off or moved out of coverage area, not reachable etc. In such circumstances he will be available in HLR but not in VLR. This causes difference between subscriber number reported by the service providers and numbers available in VLR.

The VLR data calculated here is on the basis of active subscribers in VLR on the date of Peak VLR of the particular month for which the data is being collected. This data is to be taken from the switches having the purge time of not more than 72 hours.