

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**  
**7<sup>th</sup> March 2006**  
**Press Release No. 22/2006**

- **Telecom Subscribers maintain growth during February, 2006. Total 4.52 million additions, more than 4.27 million additions in mobile alone.**
  
- **Gross crosses 134 million, Teledensity reaches 12.28%**

The subscriber base for telephony services continued to maintain its growth during February 2006 also with around 4.52 million subscribers being added. Thus, a total of 35.92 millions subscribers have been added during the first 11 months of financial year 2005-2006.

**Mobile Service:**

For mobile segment 4.27 million subscribers have been added during February 2006. The mobile additions consist of 3.16 million GSM subscribers and 1.17 million CDMA subscribers as against 3.52 million GSM and 1.17 million CDMA subscribers in the previous month. During first 11 months of the financial year 2005-06 about 32.66 million mobile subscribers have been added. The total mobile subscribers at the end of February 2006 are 84.88 million.

The comparison of month-wise addition in mobile subscriber base for 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06 is as follows :

	April	May	Jun	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb	Total for 11 months
2003-04	0.64	2.26	1.42	2.31	1.79	1.61	1.67	1.90	1.69	1.58	1.60	18.47
2004-05	1.37	1.33	1.43	1.74	1.67	1.84	1.51	1.56	1.95	1.76	1.67	17.84
2005-06	1.46	1.72	1.98	2.45	2.74	2.48	2.90	3.51	4.46	4.69	4.27	32.66

**Fixed subscribers:**

In the fixed segment a total of 0.25 million subscribers were added during February 2006. With this the total subscriber base of fixed lines reached around 49.45 million.

### **Teledensity:**

The gross subscriber base consisting of fixed as well as mobile has become 134.33 million at the end of February 2006. The teledensity at the end of February 2006 has reached 12.28 compared to 11.88 at the end of previous month.

### **Trends in National Long distance charges (STD Rates)**

The present minimum STD rates are about 80% lower than the tariff prevailing in December, 2003 and about 60% less as compared to rates for December,2005. The reduction in STD rate are shown in the following tables :

(Rs. Per minute)

Distance	Dec.2003	Dec.2004	Dec.2005	Mar, 2006	% reduction with reference to December 2003
Upto 50 Kms	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.00	17%
Above 50 & upto 200 Kms	2.40	2.40	2.40	1.00	58%
Above 200 & upto 500 Kms	4.80	2.40	2.40	1.00	79%
Above 500 Kms	4.80	2.40	2.40	1.00	79%

### **Internet Services & Broadband Growth: -**

Total Broadband connections (>256 Kbps download) in the country have touched around 10.50 lakhs only as against a target of 30 lakhs for December,2005 in Broadband Policy-2004.

(In Lakhs)

	Dec., 2004	March 2005	June 2005	Sept. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Broadband Policy target for Dec 2005
Internet Subscribers	54.50	55.54	58.92	61.25	68.00	NA	NA	60
Broadband Connections	0.49	1.86	3.96	6.1	9.3	10	10.50	30

### **New Pay Channels & Free to Air (FTA) Conversion :**

In the month of February, 2006 it has been reported to TRAI that a new pay channel (Free to Air in Chennai only) 'Times Now' has been launched.

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