

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
8th February, 2006
Press Release No.13/2006

- **Telecom Subscribers maintain growth during January 2006. Total 5 million additions, more than 4.7 million additions in mobile alone.**
- **Gross around 130 million, Teledensity nears 12%**
- **Broadband base touches first Million, Internet Subscribers base crosses 7.5 million.**
- **2 Free to Air Channels (FTA) converted to Pay Channels in January,2006.**
- **Domestic Leased Line Tariff lower by 25% to 48% from TRAI's ceiling tariff.**
- **International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) tariff lower by 2% to 7% from TRAI's Ceiling tariff.**

1. Subscribers 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 4.97 million subscribers during January,2006, as compared to 4.92 million subscribers in December, 2005. During the first 10 months of year 2005-2006 around 31.41 million subscribers have been added.

For mobile segment 4.69 million subscribers have been added during January,2006 as compared to 4.46 million in December, 2005. The mobile additions consist of 3.52 million GSM subscribers and 1.17 million CDMA subscribers as against 3.19 million GSM and 1.27 million CDMA last month.

During the first ten months of current financial year about 28.39 million mobile subscribers were added, making it a total of 80.61 million mobile subscribers at the end of January,2006.

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.	Total for 10 months
2003-04	0.64	2.26	1.42	2.31	1.79	1.61	1.67	1.90	1.69	1.58	16.87
2004-05	1.37	1.33	1.43	1.74	1.67	1.84	1.51	1.56	1.95	1.76	16.16
2005-06	1.46	1.72	1.98	2.45	2.74	2.48	2.90	3.51	4.46	4.69	28.39

In the fixed segment, a total of 0.28 million subscribers were added during January,2006, which were predominantly WLL (F). With this the total subscriber base of fixed lines have reached 49.21 million.

The gross subscribers' base consisting of fixed as well as mobile has reached around 130 million.

2. Teledensity: -

The tele-density at the end of January,2006 has reached near 12 % as compared to 11.43 at the end of previous month.

3. Internet Services & Broadband Growth: -

Total Broadband connections (>256 Kbps download) in the country have touched around 10 lakhs only as against a target of 30 lakhs for December,2005 in Broadband Policy-2004. Internet Subscriber target of 60 lakhs for December,2005 was exceeded in December,2005 itself thus showing that there is a demand for both broadband and internet but the service providers are not being able to fulfil the broadband demand.

(In Lakhs)

	Dec., 2004	March 2005	June 2005	Sept. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Broadband Policy target for Dec 2005
Internet Subscribers	54.50	55.54	58.92	61.25	75.00	NA	60
Broadband Connections	0.49	1.86	3.96	6.1	8.35	10	30

4. Domestic Leased Circuits (DLC) & International Private Leased Circuits (IPLC) tariff :- Various operators have offered different discount below the TRAI's Ceiling Tariff based on the duration capacities & routes. It ranges from 25% to 48% for DLC. All the 3 major ILDOs have filed their tariff complying with the IPLC Ceiling tariff of TRAI effective from 29th November,2005. Some discounts in the range of 2% to 7% are also available in the market based on various capacities & routes.

The ceiling tariffs (for distance > 500 km.) and the discounts range are as follows:-

(i) DLC

Capacity	Leased rental Ceiling per Annum (in Rs. Lakhs)	Discount range
E-1 (2 Mbps)	8.50	25% to 42%
DS-3 (45 Mbps)	61.6	35% to 48%
STM-1 (155 Mbps)	165.20	35% to 48%

(ii) IPLC

Capacity	Leased Rental Ceiling in Rs. Lakhs/Annum	Discount Range
E-1	13.00	2% to 7%
DS3	104.00	2% to 7%
STM-1	299.00	2% to 7%

5. New Pay Channels & Free to Air (FTA) Conversion :

TRAI has received reports from a couple of Broadcasters about the launching of new pay channels/conversion of FTA channel to pay channel. The new/converted FTA to pay channels are Adithya(Music), Teja (News), ETV and ETV2.A complete updated list of new pay channel/FTA channels converted to pay channels as received from operators is enclosed as Annexure 'A'

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**New Pay Channels and Free to Air (FTA) channels converted into
Pay Channels after 26.12.2003**

S.No	Name of the Channel	Name of Broadcaster /Distributor	Whether New Pay Channel or FTA Channel turned Pay
1	ZOOM	Bennett, Coleman & Co	New Pay Channel
2	Hangama TV	Star India P Ltd	New Pay channel
3	Animax India	Set Discovery P Ltd	New Pay channel
4	Discovery – Travel & Living	Set Discovery P Ltd	New Pay channel
5	Star One	Star India P Ltd	New Pay channel
6	VH 1	Zee Turner Ltd	New Pay channel
7	Pogo \$	Zee Turner Ltd	New Pay channel
8	ESPN Plus	ESPN Software India Private Limited	New Pay channel
9	Toon Disney	Star India P Ltd	New Pay channel
10	Disney Channel	Star India P Ltd	New Pay channel
11	Zee Action (Action Cinema)	Zee Turner Ltd	New Pay channel
12	Zee Premier (Premier Cinema)	Zee Turner Ltd	New Pay channel
13	Zee Classic (Classic Cinema)	Zee Turner Ltd	New Pay channel
14	Zee Select (MX)	Zee Turner Ltd	New Pay channel
15	Awaaz	Zee Turner Ltd	New Pay channel
16	Zee Business News	Zee Turner Ltd	New Pay channel
17	Channel [V] International	Star India P Ltd	New Pay channel
18	UDAYA TV	Sun Network	FTA to Pay
19	Ushe TV	Sun Network	FTA to Pay
20	Udaya News	Sun Network	FTA to Pay
21	MTV	Set Discovery P Ltd	FTA to Pay
22	NDTV Profit	Set Discovery P Ltd	New Pay Channel
23	NDTV 24X7	Set Discovery P Ltd	FTA to Pay
24	ZEE SPORTS	ZEE Turner Ltd	New pay Channel
25	SAB TV	Set Discovery P Ltd	FTA to Pay
26	Adithya Music \$	M/s Channel Plus	New Pay Channel
27	Teja News \$	M/s Channel Plus	New Pay Channel
28	ETV \$ ⊗	Ms Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	FTA to Pay
29	ETV2 \$ ⊗	Ms Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	FTA to Pay

- Note:-
1. The distribution of Nick, Ten Sports and HBO changed hands and were pay channels as on 26.12.03.
 2. In respect of S.No's 11-14, the names in brackets are the new names
 3. \$ Not as Pay channels in Chennai
 4. ⊗ FTA Channels Converted to pay channels in January,2006.