

# **TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

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### **TRAI launches Quarterly Performance Indicators of Telecom Services for the quarter ending December, 2003**

#### **Background:-**

In July,2003 the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) first published the performance indicators of Telecom Services highlighting the trends for the financial year 2002-03, followed by two reports pertaining to two quarters of FY 2003-04. Continuing the same, compilation of the performance indicators of various telecom services for the quarter Oct-Dec 2003 has been brought out through a launch on the website today.

#### **Salient Features of Telecom Services during quarter ending December, 2003**

The gross subscriber base of the fixed and mobile services together reached 70.53 million at the end of the quarter ending December, 2003 from 64.77 million as on Sept., 2003, thereby showing an overall increase of around 8.90% during the quarter. The growth on annual basis (Dec.2002 to Dec.2003) is more than 39%.

The subscribers of Fixed Service (Fixed Line and WLL-F) increased from 41.38 million to 42.09 million and that for Mobile Services (cellular + WLL-M) from 23.03 million to 28.44 million, during the above quarter.

The quarter also indicates the emergence of new mobile operators consolidating their positions viz. BSNL (4.93 million) and Reliance (6.24 million).

The share of PSU operators v/s Private Operators for mobile services increased to a ratio of 19:81.

While the fixed line phones showed a negligible growth, mobile subscribers [WLL (M) and Cellular combined] showed a growth of 23.49% during the quarter. The Annual growth (December 2002 to December 2003) for this segment was 164%.

Another noteworthy trend is the number of mobile users having already exceeded the fixed subscribers in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Vadodra and Shimla. If this trend continues during the current year, the country will have more mobile subscribers than the fixed subscribers during 2004.

Tariff for mobile services have maintained the downtrend during the quarter, with the trend being of the order of 14.74%. The effective per minute airtime charge considering an average usage of 400 minutes/month have declined from Rs.0.67/ minute to Rs.0.57/minute.

For mobile services ARPU decreased from Rs. 516/- to Rs. 457/- showing a decline of 11.43% though there was a slight increase in average Minutes Of Use (MOU) from 298 to 301 during the quarter. However, it needs to be noted that MOU has increased by 35% vis-a-vis March 2003. This trend appears to emerge due to a steep decrease in tariff for mobile services.

Number of VPTs added during the quarter was 846 making it a total of 5,19,367 VPTs in the country thus covering more than 85% of the total number of villages.

Number of PCO's in the country increased to 17.90 lakhs registering a growth of about 8% during the quarter.

The subscribers' base of Internet has shown an increase of around 4%, during the quarter, number of subscribers having increased from 3.98 million to 4.14 million as on December, 2003. The annual growth of this segment (December 2002 to December 2003) is more than 10%.

During the quarter the emergence of Govt. owned, ISPs as no.1 and no.2 has also been noticed (BSNL 10.04 lakhs, MTNL 6.92 lakhs). The share of PSU in ISPs has increased to around 41% of the total subscriber base.

During the quarter, Internet Telephony recorded a usage of 20.1 million minutes against 14.2 million minutes during the last quarter registering a growth of 41.55%

Average minutes of use per month per Internet subscriber was of the order of 399 minutes and the ARPU/month for Internet service was of the order of Rs. 270/-.

The complete compilation is available at TRAI website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in).

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