



PRESS RELEASE

9th January 2007

4.6 million GSM Additions in December 2006, culminating into a best ever calendar year in terms of subscriber growth.

Highest ever GSM subscriber additions in a calendar year

With the GSM subscriber base touching 105.4 million as on end of Dec. 06, **the calendar year 2006 proved to be the best ever for the GSM industry in terms of subscriber growth.** The GSM industry added 4.6 million subscribers in the month of December 2006.

The subscriber additions for the entire calendar year ending December 2006 were **far higher at 47 million as compared to just 21 million additions** for the year ending December 2005 – **which is a jump of 124% in subscriber additions.** **The GSM industry thus witnessed a sharp acceleration in subscriber growth.**

Mr. T.V. Ramachandran, Director General, COAI **stated that the calendar year, January 06 to December 2006, proved to be a landmark year for the GSM industry** The GSM subscriber base almost doubled from 58.5 million as on December 2005 to 105.4 million as on December 2006.

Mr. Ramachandran further stated that the subscriber additions were far above expectation and were the result of a concerted effort by the GSM industry to accelerate its growth trajectory in a bid to reach the Government target of 470 million mobile subscribers by 2010.

Among all circles, **Category C circles witnessed the highest rate of growth at 6.1%**, followed by Category B circles at 5.8%.

Within the Category C circles, the highest growth was recorded by Assam (9.2%) followed by Orissa at (7.2%).

Within the Category B circles, Haryana recorded the highest growth at 9.1%, followed by Rajasthan at 8.3%.

Category A circles also witnessed a growth of 3.8% in December 06. Gujarat recorded the highest growth of 4.3% followed by Tamil Nadu at 3.9%.

The Metro subscribers grew by 3% over the previous month. Kolkata as well as Chennai recorded the highest growth at 4%.

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