

PRESS RELEASE

GSM Mobile Subscribers grow by 5 million, Touch 115 million in February Help Power Total Telephone Subscribers to cross 200 million

New Delhi, March 8, 2007....The **All India GSM subscriber base** continued to grow aggressively in February, achieving a subscriber base of **115.3 million in February 2007**, up from 110.5 million in January 2007 – recording an **addition of nearly 4.9 million during the month** under review.

Expressing delight at the sustained growth of the industry, **Mr. T.V. Ramachandran, Director General COAI** stated that it was the **GSM industry** that was **primarily responsible for powering the overall growth** of the telecom sector and is a **key contributor in the 200 million milestone reached by the Telecom sector** as a whole in **February 2007**.

Mr. Ramachandran **stated that this growth has been achieved as a result of the concerted efforts of the industry coupled with forward looking policies of the Government, enabling regulation and fair play for all the players.**

Among all circles, **Category C circles witnessed the highest rate of growth at 6.8%**, followed by Category B circles at 4.9%.

Within the **Category C circles**, the highest growth was recorded by Himachal Pradesh (10.3%) followed by Assam (9.3%).

Within the **Category B circles**, Haryana recorded the highest growth at 6.9%, followed by West Bengal & Andaman & Nicobar at 6.8%.

Category A circles also witnessed a growth of 3.8% in February'07. Andhra Pradesh recorded the highest growth of 4.3% followed by Maharashtra at 4.1%.

The Metro subscribers grew by 3.3% over the previous month. Kolkata recorded the highest growth at 4.6%.

**** ENDS****