

PRESS RELEASE

Highest ever GSM Additions in March 2008

GSM industry signs off Financial Year 2007-08 with a Flourish

New Delhi: dated 10th April 2008

COAI is delighted to report an unprecedented and unparalleled growth in the All India GSM subscriber base by over **7.6 million** during the month of March 2008 – **the highest ever subscriber additions since the inception of GSM service in India.**

With this, the cumulative All India GSM subscriber base has now grown to **192.3 million in March 2008**, up from **185.0 million in February 2008**, a growth of about 4% during the month of March 2008.

Mr TV Ramachandran, Director General, COAI stated that, “the **COAI is delighted at the sustained escalation in the rate of growth of GSM mobile services.**” Mr. Ramachandran attributed this **excellent performance of the GSM industry** to “a **combination of factors, including aggressive network expansion, excellent affordability, ample choice of service and continuing customer pull for GSM**”.

He stated that the **COAI and the GSM operators were deeply gratified by the continued support of their customers** and took this opportunity to **reaffirm their commitment to their existing and potential customers “to continue to provide them with world class services and the best value proposition for their communication needs.”**

He also predicted that the **in the month of April, Indian telecom industry will add another feather to its cap by becoming the second largest wireless network in the world, after China.** He pointed out that this tremendous growth has been primarily driven by the GSM industry.

Among all circles, **Category C** circles witnessed the highest rate of growth at nearly **4.5%**. Within the Category C circles, the highest growth was recorded by the **Assam at 6.9%** followed by **Jammu & Kashmir Circle at 4.8%**.

In terms of growth, Category C circles were closely followed by **Category A** circles, which recorded a healthy growth of **4.4%** over the previous month. **Maharashtra Circle** recorded the highest growth at **6.5%** followed by **Gujarat at 5.0**).

Category B circles witnessed a growth of **4.0%**. Amongst the Category B circles, **U.P. (West)** recorded highest growth at **4.7%** followed by **Rajasthan at 4.0%**.

The **subscribers in Metro** grew by **2.4%** over the previous month, with **Chennai** recording the highest growth at **2.8%** followed by **Kolkata** at 2.7%.