



Press Release

## **Telecom industry joins together to restore mobile connectivity in Vizag after Cyclone Hudhud**



New Delhi, October 16, 2014

India's leading Mobile Operators Aircel, Bharti Airtel, Idea Cellular and Vodafone are working jointly towards restoration of mobile connectivity in the affected areas of Vizag after the devastating Cyclone Hudhud left a trail of destruction. After being hit severely by the cyclone which caused severe damage to telecom infrastructure, thereby impacting networks across all operators in a huge way, the telecom industry is working collectively to put its network back online. Leading telecom operators have initiated efforts to ensure customers are able to continuously use their mobile phones though the infrastructure was hit severely by the cyclone Hudhud.

While networks in critical areas have been restored in the last 24 hours, efforts are on to restore connectivity in the rest of the impacted areas. In the meanwhile some special services have been made available to the people by the telecom operators. They are as follows:

1. Customers in Vizag, Srikakulam and Vizainagaram will be credited 30 free minutes
2. Operators are offering an advance talk time facility up to INR 50 for customers to continue mobile usage
3. Inter operator roaming has been configured helping customers of both operators to make and receive calls
4. PCO's have been put across relief camps facilitating free calling for everyone. More PCOs planned across the camps
5. Mobile phone charging stations are being made available at tower sites restored helping people to recharge their handsets.

**Mr. Rajan S Mathews, Director General, COAI** stated, *"The operators are working together to restore the services and help reach out to the people in need. Enabling seamless connectivity for easy communication with loved ones remains the priority of the industry. We are hopeful that soon most of the network in the affected areas will be restored to normalcy in terms of connectivity and services."*

The operators continue to work with local authorities and the DoT to restore connectivity across the State at the earliest. The Telecom industry body is mobilizing all manpower and other infrastructure resources to expedite the restoration process and therefore ensure normalcy in the state.

### **About COAI**

COAI was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society. COAI's vision is to establish India as the global leader of innovative mobile communications infrastructure, products and services and achieving a national teledensity of 100%, including broadband. The association is also dedicated to the advancement of modern communication and towards delivering the benefits of innovative and affordable mobile communication services to the people of India.

[www.coai.in](http://www.coai.in)

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