

## Press Release

### **BSNL CROSS MARK OF 300 CITIES FOR 3G ROLL OUT**

**New Delhi: 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2010:** In less than one year, 3G service has been rolled out in 318 cities with 8.56 lakh subscribers. In the first phase of its roll out, BSNL has plans to cross 400 cities by 31<sup>st</sup> March and 760 cities by September 2010, which will cover all important cities across the country.

BSNL soft launched premium 3G service in Chennai on February 22, 2009. Commercial launch of the service commenced on February 27, 2009 in 11 selected cities in North & East Zones. Service has since been launched in South Zone also.

BSNL's present mobile customer base is 59.5 million and during the last two months average monthly addition has been 2 million connections. Recent media reports have been depicting BSNL losing ground to the competitors and sliding from 4<sup>th</sup> position to 6<sup>th</sup> position. The fact is that BSNL still holds 4<sup>th</sup> position in the wireless segment which can be corroborated from the report released by TRAI on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2010. As per TRAI report for 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009, customer base of top six wireless operators is:-

<b>WIRELESS SUBSCRIBER BASE</b>		
<b>WIRELESS OPERATOR</b>	<b>NO. OF CONNECTIONS</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
BHARTI (AIRTEL)	118,864,031	I
RELIANCE	93,795,613	II
VODAFONE	91,401,959	III
<b>BSNL</b>	<b>62,861,214</b>	<b>IV</b>
IDEA	57,611,872	V
TATA TELESERVICES	57,329,449	VI
<b>TOTAL WIRELESS</b>	<b>525,147,922</b>	

It is worth mentioning here that BSNL is not operating in high potential Delhi & Mumbai LSAs where the other top five operators namely Bharti, Reliance, Vodaphone, Idea & Tata together have around 42 million customers.

**(M.M.C. Sharma)**  
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