

BSNL adds most wireless users in April: Trai

NEW DELHI: State run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) recorded the highest number of wireless user additions in April, ahead of market leader Bharti Airtel, telecom regulator Trai said Monday.

The private mobile phone operators though held 91.20% market share of the wireless subscribers whereas BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU telcos, had a market share of only 8.80%. BSNL added 1.14 million subscribers in April, Bharti Airtel gained 978,230 while No. 2 Vodafone India added 46,660 users. Third ranked Idea lost 387,609 subscribers during the month.

Total wireless subscriber base increased from 1,033.63 million at March end to 1,034.25 million at the end of April, up 0.06% sequentially. The urban subscription declined from 609.69 million at the end of March 2016 to 607.21 million at the end of April 2016, whereas the rural subscription increased from 449.17 million to 452.08 million during the same time period.

Delhi/NCR region recorded the highest tele-density of 234.72.

In the wireless segment, the Circles of Category C showed the maximum net addition in April this year. Circles in Category A and Metro Circles showed a decline in their wireless subscriber base during the same period.

The Assam service area recorded the highest growth rate in wireless subscribers during the month of April 2016.

In northern and western India, the highest requests for mobile number portability has been received in Rajasthan followed by Gujarat. In southern and eastern India, the highest requests for MNP has been received in Karnataka followed by Andhra Pradesh.

Wireline subscriber base declined from 25.23 million from the end of March 2016 to 25.04 million by the end of April 2016. BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, held 72.06% of the market share. However, Bharti Airtel saw an increase in the subscriptions in the wireline market share.

The number of broadband subscribers increased from 149.75 million at the end of March 2016 to 151.09 million at the end of April 2016. Bharti Airtel leads among the wireless broadband service providers with 37.37 million subscribers followed by Vodafone and Idea Cellular. BSNL holds the highest market share in the wired broadband service provider base.