Airtel to apply for Payments Bank License

New Delhi, January 29, 2015: Bharti Airtel Limited ("Airtel") today announced that it's wholly owned subsidiary Airtel M Commerce Services Limited (AMSL) is seeking to convert its existing Prepaid Payment Instrument license into a Payments Bank license to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India. It also announced that subject to grant of a Payments Bank license to AMSL by the RBI and all regulatory approvals, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (Kotak) will acquire 19.90% stake in AMSL as an investor.

AMSL offers mobile money services under the brand name "Airtel Money".

Gopal Vittal, MD and CEO (India and South Asia), Bharti Airtel said, *"We welcome the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) initiative on Payments Bank. The RBI's vision for differentiated banks represents a significant step in furthering India's financial inclusion agenda. The RBI guidelines provide an exciting and challenging opportunity for an entity like us to contribute in a meaningful manner to drive financial inclusion".*

On the tie-up with Kotak, **Vittal added**, *"Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is one of the leading and most respected private sector banks in India. Kotak's banking expertise coupled with Airtel's strength in telecom will help deliver financial services to millions of unbanked citizens across the country".*

Airtel is the largest mobile services provider in India with over 215 million subscribers and with 31% revenue market share. Airtel has deep and wide distribution reach especially in rural and remote parts of the country. Its distribution network reaches over 1.4 million retail points across India.

Airtel Money, launched in 2011 was the first mobile based pre-paid payment instrument service in the country and today empowers millions across India to leverage their mobile phones as a secure way for making payments and transferring money.

About Bharti Airtel Limited

Bharti Airtel Limited is a leading global telecommunications company with operations in 20 countries across Asia and Africa. Headquartered in New Delhi, India, the company ranks amongst the top 4 mobile service providers globally in terms of subscribers. In India, the company's product offerings include 2G, 3G and 4G wireless services, mobile commerce, fixed line services, high speed DSL broadband, IPTV, DTH, enterprise services including national & international long distance services to carriers. In the rest of the geographies, it offers 2G, 3G wireless services and mobile commerce. Bharti Airtel had over 307 million customers across its operations at the end of November 2014. To know more please visit, www.airtel.com

About Airtel M Commerce Services Limited

Airtel M Commerce Services Limited established in June 2010 is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bharti Airtel Limited that provides mobile commerce services. Headquartered in New Delhi, India, the company, through its flagship product airtel money, issues pre-paid payment instruments under the license given by the Reserve Bank of India. Through airtel money, the company offers ticketing, mobile & DTH recharges, utility bill payments, online shopping, money transfer services. The company's other product offerings include a business correspondent tie-up with Axis Bank Limited and provides business to business payment collection services. To know more please visit, www.airtel.com/money.