Bharti Airtel Acquires Prime Spectrum

- ***Renews 900 MHz spectrum in all six circles***
- ***Adds fresh 900 MHz spectrum in key leadership circles***
- ***Adds to its existing 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz spectrum holdings***
- ***Secures 20-year roadmap for providing its customers world class voice and data services across 2G, 3G and 4G***

New Delhi, India, March 26, 2015: Bharti Airtel, a global telecommunications services provider with operations in 20 countries across Asia and Africa, today said that it has acquired 111.6 MHz of prime spectrum across 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz bands for a total consideration of Rs. 29,130 crores in the just concluded spectrum auction conducted by the Government of India. Of this, Rs. 17,618 crores has been spent on the renewal of existing spectrum while the balance Rs. 11,512 crores has been spent on procuring new spectrum. The Company's spectrum acquisition strategy is aimed at enhancing its leadership position in the fast growing data segment in the country. The auction results are subject to the outcome of the decision by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Company has successfully renewed all its spectrum holdings in the 900 MHz band in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and North East circles. It has also acquired additional spectrum in the 900 MHz band in key leadership circles of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, North East, Assam, Bihar and Orissa.

Bharti Airtel has also acquired 1800 MHz spectrum across Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Kolkata, Orissa, Haryana and North East. The Company has added to its spectrum holding in the 2100 MHz band by acquiring fresh spectrum in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh (East), Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Tamil Nadu circles.

Post the latest spectrum acquisition, Bharti Airtel's spectrum mix will give it unmatched reach in the mobile data segment across 3G and 4G with a pan India footprint.

The Company will be able to offer pan India 4G services using a combination of FD-LTE technology in the 1800 MHz band and TD-LTE roll-out in the 2300 MHz band. It will also be able to offer 3G across all markets with the exception of Kerala using a combination of 900 MHz and 2100 MHz.

Gopal Vittal, MD & CEO – India & South Asia, Bharti Airtel said "We have secured a 20 year roadmap and have a strong platform to lead the Digital India story. However, the auction design and the scarcity of spectrum have resulted in exorbitant bids to secure the spectrum, particularly in renewal circles, where huge investments have already been made on the assurance of a continuity of business enshrined in the licenses issued by the DoT. We hope that in future auctions, the Government will make available adequate spectrum by securing it from agencies and operators who are underutilising this vital resource."

About Bharti Airtel

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 and 4G wireless services and mobile commerce. Bharti Airtel had over 319 million customers across its operations at the end of February 2015. To know more please visit, www.airtel.com

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