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MEDIA STATEMENT

**INDIA NEEDS TECHNOLOGY AND TARIFF INNOVATIONS
AND AFFORDABLE SERVICES FOR CUSTOMERS –
BILL & KEEP FRAMEWORK WOULD ACCELERATE THESE**

Jio is committed to implementing the most efficient telecommunications network in India and passing on the benefits of technology to Indian customers. Jio offers free voice services to all its customers backed by a superior technology and has helped make India the world's largest mobile data consuming country within one year of commencement of services.

Implementation of Bill & Keep regime will help in making services more affordable for Indian customers. It should have been implemented in 2014 as envisaged in the 2011 Report submitted by TRAI to the Hon'ble Supreme Court and will be six years too late.

Jio has always offered free voice services to its customers. There is no question of any advantage from the new IUC regulation to Jio as it has already passed on all the benefits to customers. We deny any benefits to Jio. At a time when the world is moving towards IP-based technologies, cost of voice has come down to a fraction of a paisa and the customers should enjoy this advantage.

The Delhi High Court earlier today dismissed the petition of one of the incumbent operators while pronouncing that the appeal fails to show any violation of Section 11 (4) of the TRAI Act, 1997 (principles of transparency). It is appalling that the incumbent operators have still gone ahead and made untrue and baseless allegations against the process for determination of IUC or the regulator. The incumbent operators have a history of opposing all the IUC regulations over the last 8 years, but have not been successful in thwarting passing of the benefits of lower IUC to customers.

References to financial stress in the industry or the need for IUC to promote rural coverage again shows the attitude of the incumbent operators wherein IUC is being treated as a subsidy that the Indian customers must pay to sustain these operators financially. On the contrary, it is a fact that the high cost IUC regime thus far has caused financial stress for the smaller and new operators.

Technology is fast determining growth opportunities in the world. It is the responsibility of all the operators and other stakeholders to work together to achieve the vision of Digital India and transform the digital landscape of India. A forward-looking regulatory regime will contribute in achieving that vision.