

20<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**National Stock Exchange of India Limited**  
"Exchange Plaza"  
Bandra – Kurla Complex  
Bandra (E)  
Mumbai 400 051

**BSE Limited**  
Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers  
Dalal Street  
Mumbai 400 001

Dear Sirs,

**Sub: Disclosure under Regulation 30 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015**

**Ref: "Idea Cellular Limited" (IDEA / 532822)**

We wish to inform you that the Board of Directors of Idea Cellular Limited (**Company**) at its meeting held today, 20 March 2017, have approved the scheme of amalgamation of Vodafone India Limited (**VIL**) and its wholly owned subsidiary Vodafone Mobile Services Limited (**VMSL**) with the Company subject to receipt of necessary approvals of shareholders, creditors, SEBI, Stock Exchanges, the Competition Commission of India, the Department of Telecommunications (**DoT**), the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, the Reserve Bank of India and other governmental authorities and third parties (as may be required).

Upon the amalgamation becoming effective, the entire business of VIL and VMSL (excluding VIL's investment in Indus Towers Limited, its international network assets and information technology platforms) will vest in the Company.

Details of the entities forming part of the amalgamation (together, the **Parties**) are given below:

VIL

Name: Vodafone India Limited

Size (net worth): INR 128.55 billion

Turnover: INR 50.25 billion

VMSL

Name: Vodafone Mobile Services Limited

Size (net worth): INR 37.37 billion

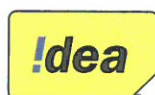
Turnover: INR 403.78 billion

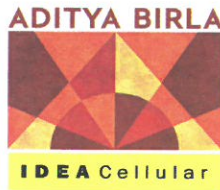
Company

Name: Idea Cellular Limited

Size (net worth): INR 242.96 billion

Turnover: INR 360 billion





All the entities forming part of the amalgamation are engaged in the business of cellular mobile telecommunication services pursuant to licences granted to them by the DoT.

The Board of Directors of the Company believes that the proposed amalgamation will result in, amongst others, the following:

- (a) Creation of largest Indian telecom operator with widest mobile network in the country and pan India 3G /4G footprint;
- (b) Sufficient spectrum to compete with major operators in the market while offering innovative and attractively priced mobile service to customers;
- (c) Acceleration of expansion of wireless broadband networks across India to deliver the Government of India's "Digital India" mission;
- (d) Substantial cost and capex synergies creating value for shareholders; and
- (e) Leveraging the customer's affinity for both the existing brands.

On the scheme of amalgamation of VMSL with the Company becoming effective, the Company shall issue an aggregate number of equity shares of the Company (credited as fully paid-up) to VIL equal to 47% of the post issue paid-up capital of the Company on a fully diluted basis. Immediately thereafter, on the amalgamation of VIL with the Company, the shares issued to VIL pursuant to the amalgamation of VMSL with the Company shall stand cancelled and, post such cancellation, the Company shall issue an aggregate number of equity shares of the Company (credited as fully paid-up) equal to 50% of the post issue paid up capital of the Company to the Shareholder of VIL (**Vodafone**).

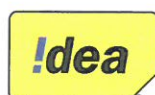
Vodafone will own 45.1% of the combined Company after transferring a stake of ~4.9% to the Promoters of Idea and / or their affiliates (together **Promoters of Idea**) for INR 38.74 billion in cash concurrent with the completion of the amalgamation. The Promoters of Idea will hold 26% of the Company and the balance will be held by the public.

At its aforesaid meeting, the Board also approved the execution of the Implementation Agreement amongst the Company and the Promoters of Idea, VIL, VMSL, Vodafone and Vodafone International Holdings BV, the Shareholders' Agreement amongst the Company, the Promoters of Idea, Vodafone, Vodafone International Holdings BV and certain incidental agreements relating to the licensing of trademarks and provision of services with the affiliates of Vodafone and the Promoters of Idea.

The Implementation Agreement sets out in detail the terms and conditions on which the proposed amalgamation would be undertaken, the representations and warranties and indemnities being given by each party, etc. The agreement contemplates the completion of the proposed amalgamation within a period of 24 months.

The significant terms of the Shareholders' Agreement are:

- (a) Promoters of Idea and Vodafone have the right to nominate 3 directors each. The Board will include Independent Directors as required under law;







- (b) The Promoters of Idea have the sole right to appoint the Chairman. The appointment of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Operation Officer will require the approval of both the Promoters of Idea and Vodafone. Vodafone has the right to appoint the Chief Financial Officer of the Company;
- (c) Certain critical matters of the Company such as the issue of shares otherwise than on a rights basis, consolidation, subdivision or reclassification of share capital, liquidation, amendments to the constitutional documents, entry into related party transactions, change to the name or key brands or branding strategy of the Company, etc. are subject to the affirmative consent of the Promoters of Idea and Vodafone; and
- (d) The Promoters of Idea have the right to acquire up to a 9.5% additional stake from Vodafone under an agreed mechanism with a view to equalising the shareholdings over time. If Vodafone and the Promoters of Idea do not have equal shareholding by the expiry of the 4<sup>th</sup> year from completion of the amalgamation, Vodafone is obliged to reduce its holding in order to equalise its ownership with that of the Promoters of Idea over the following 5 year period. Until equalisation is achieved, the additional shares held by Vodafone will be restricted and votes will be exercised jointly under the terms of the Shareholders' Agreement.

The Shareholders' Agreement will become effective only upon the scheme of amalgamation becoming effective.

None of the above including the scheme of amalgamation, the entry into the Shareholders' Agreement and the entry into the Implementation Agreement is a related party transaction.

A copy of the press release to be issued by the Company and the Vodafone Group is enclosed.

The above is for information and dissemination to the members.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

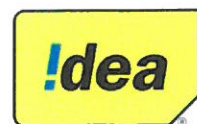
For **Idea Cellular Limited**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pankaj Kapdeo", written over a horizontal line.

**Pankaj Kapdeo**  
**Company Secretary**

Encl : As above





## Merger of Vodafone India and Idea: creating the largest telecoms operator in India

London, United Kingdom and Mumbai, India – March 20, 2017

### Key highlights

- Vodafone to combine its subsidiary Vodafone India (excluding its 42% stake in Indus Towers) with Idea, which is listed on the Indian Stock Exchanges.
- Highly complementary combination will create India's largest telecoms operator<sup>1</sup> with the country's widest mobile network and a strong commitment to deliver the Indian government's 'Digital India' vision.
- Sustained investment by the combined entity will accelerate the pan-India expansion of wireless broadband services using 4G/4G+/5G technologies, support the introduction of digital content and 'Internet of Things' (IoT) services as well as expand financial inclusion through mobile money services for the benefit of Indian consumers, businesses and society as a whole.
- Merger of equals with joint control of the combined company between Vodafone and the Aditya Birla Group, governed by a shareholders' agreement.
- The merger ratio is consistent with recommendations from the joint independent valuers. The implied enterprise value is INR828 billion (US\$12.4 billion) for Vodafone India and INR722 billion (US\$10.8 billion) for Idea excluding its stake in Indus Towers, valuing Vodafone India at 6.4x EV/LTM EBITDA and Idea excluding its stake in Indus Towers at 6.3x EV/LTM EBITDA<sup>2</sup>.
- Substantial cost and capex synergies with an estimated net present value of approximately INR670 billion (US\$10.0 billion) after integration costs and spectrum liberalisation payments, with estimated run-rate savings of INR140 billion (US\$2.1 billion) on an annual basis by the fourth full year post completion<sup>3</sup>.
- Vodafone will own 45.1% of the combined company after transferring a stake of 4.9% to the Aditya Birla Group for circa INR39 billion (circa US\$579 million) in cash concurrent with completion of the merger. The Aditya Birla Group will then own 26.0% and has the right to acquire more shares from Vodafone under an agreed mechanism with a view to equalising the shareholdings over time.
- If Vodafone and the Aditya Birla Group's shareholdings in the combined company are not equal after four years, Vodafone will sell down shares in the combined company to equalise its shareholding to that of the Aditya Birla Group over the following five-year period.
- Until equalisation is achieved, the voting rights of the additional shares held by Vodafone will be restricted and votes will be exercised jointly under the terms of the shareholders' agreement.
- Vodafone India will be deconsolidated by Vodafone on announcement and reported as a joint venture post-closing, reducing Vodafone Group net debt by approximately INR552 billion (US\$8.2 billion) and lowering Vodafone Group leverage by around 0.3x Net Debt/EBITDA<sup>4</sup>. The transaction is expected to be accretive to Vodafone's cash flow<sup>5</sup> from the first full year post-completion.
- The transaction is expected to close during calendar year 2018, subject to customary approvals.

<sup>1</sup> Largest communications provider by revenue (based on the quarter ending December 2016 TRAI industry revenues) and subscribers (as reported for December 2016)

<sup>2</sup> Based on: (Idea market capitalisation of INR263 billion (US\$3.9 billion) / 50%) x 45.1% + INR39 billion (US\$579 million) (received for 4.9% stake transferred) + Vodafone India net debt contribution of INR552 billion (US\$8.2 billion) based on Idea's net debt (based on pro forma adjustments as per transaction definitions) as at 31 December 2016; Idea market capitalisation as at 27 January 2017 (30 trading day closing VWAP of INR 72.5), being the last trading day prior to the announcement by Vodafone and Idea that they were in discussions in relation to this transaction; Idea valuation calculated excluding Idea's 11.15% stake in Indus Towers (valued at 8.8x LTM EBITDA, as per Bharti Infratel's multiple as at 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 close)

<sup>3</sup> On an annual basis before integration costs in the fourth full year after completion

<sup>4</sup> Based on expected FY2017 year-end net debt/EBITDA. Net debt/EBITDA impact includes the INR39 billion (US\$579 million) payment from the Aditya Birla Group, is adjusted for the deconsolidation of Vodafone Netherlands and is subject to completion adjustments.

<sup>5</sup> FCF as defined by Vodafone on a guidance basis but after spectrum payments



Aditya Birla Group Chairman, Kumar Mangalam Birla, said:

*"Throughout its history, the Aditya Birla Group has been synonymous with the task of nation building and driving inclusive growth in the country. This landmark combination will enable the Aditya Birla Group to create a high quality digital infrastructure that will transition the Indian population towards a digital lifestyle and make the Government's Digital India vision a reality. For Idea shareholders and lenders who have supported us thus far, this transaction is highly accretive, and Idea and Vodafone will together create a very valuable company given our complementary strengths."*

Vodafone Group Plc Chief Executive, Vittorio Colao said:

*"The combination of Vodafone India and Idea will create a new champion of Digital India founded with a long-term commitment and vision to bring world-class 4G networks to villages, towns and cities across India. The combined company will have the scale required to ensure sustainable consumer choice in a competitive market and to expand new technologies – such as mobile money services – that have the potential to transform daily life for every Indian. We look forward to working with the Aditya Birla Group to create value for all stakeholders."*

### **Strategic combination**

Vodafone Group Plc (LSE: VOD) and Idea Cellular (NSE: IDEA) today announced that they have reached an agreement to combine their operations in India (excluding Vodafone's 42% stake in Indus Towers) to create India's largest telecom operator. The combined company would become the leading communications provider in India with almost 400 million customers, 35% customer market share and 41% revenue market share<sup>6</sup>.

The brand strategy of the combined company will be developed in due course and will leverage customers' affinity for both existing brands, built up over the past decade. The name of the combined listed company will be changed in due course.

The merger of Idea and Vodafone India is founded on a shared commitment to realise the Indian Government's 'Digital India' vision and financial inclusion goals, delivering significant benefits to 1.3 billion Indian consumers and creating substantial value for all stakeholders.

By combining their respective businesses, Idea and Vodafone will establish a company with the scale and efficiency required to offer innovative and attractively priced mobile services, enhancing consumer choice in a highly competitive market with at least five major telecoms providers. The combination of the two companies' networks and spectrum holdings, together with continued investment, will accelerate the pan-India expansion of wireless broadband services on 4G/4G+/5G technologies to build capacity, supporting the expansion of digital content and IoT services and delivering a world-class broadband experience to customers.

The combined company will have sufficient spectrum to compete effectively with the other major operators in the market. It would hold 1,850 MHz, including circa 1,645 MHz of liberalised spectrum acquired through auctions<sup>7</sup>. It will be capable of building substantial mobile data capacity, utilising the largest broadband spectrum portfolio with 34 3G carriers and 129 4G carriers across the country.

Vodafone India's strong presence in metro circles and Idea's leadership in semi-urban and rural telecom markets will allow for nationwide leadership within Indian M&A guidelines. In circles where both Idea and Vodafone India currently have a limited presence, the combined entity will become the leading challenger with the scale to compete more effectively and enhance consumer choice.

The combined company will be able to draw on support from its two largest shareholders, Vodafone and the Aditya Birla Group, (each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties") to drive growth, investment and to create value for all stakeholders. The Parties' capabilities combine experience of running leading businesses across multiple industries and geographies, world-class expertise in telecoms with global scale, enterprise services, mobile money services and procurement and a deep understanding of – and strong relationships within – the Indian market.

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<sup>6</sup> Largest communications provider by revenue (based on Q3 FY17 TRAI industry revenues) and subscribers (as reported for December 2016)

<sup>7</sup> Spectrum holdings are shown on a pro-forma combined basis and may need to be reduced to comply with M&A guidelines

## Transaction details

The transaction will be structured as follows:

- Idea will contribute all of its assets including its standalone towers with 15.4k tenancies<sup>8</sup> and its 11.15% stake in Indus Towers.
- Vodafone will contribute Vodafone India including its standalone towers with 15.8k tenancies<sup>8</sup> but excluding its 42% stake in Indus Towers.
- The merger ratio is consistent with recommendations from the joint independent valuers. Based on Idea's undisturbed share price (INR72.5 based on the 30 trading day VWAP as at 27 January 2017), the agreed merger ratio implies an enterprise value for Vodafone India of INR828 billion (US\$12.4 billion) and an enterprise value for Idea's mobile business of INR722 billion (US\$10.8 billion), excluding its 11.15% stake in Indus. This is equivalent to valuing Vodafone India at 6.4x EV/LTM EBITDA and Idea excluding its stake in Indus Towers at 6.3x EV/LTM EBITDA<sup>9</sup>.
- Vodafone's contribution of net debt will be dependent on Idea's net debt at completion as well as customary closing adjustments. Vodafone will contribute INR25 billion (US\$369 million) more net debt than Idea at completion. Based on Idea's net debt of INR527 billion (US\$7.9 billion) as at 31 December 2016<sup>10</sup>, this would have implied INR552 billion (US\$8.2 billion) of debt to be contributed by Vodafone.
- Vodafone will own 45.1% of the combined company after transferring a 4.9% stake to the Aditya Birla Group for INR39 billion (US\$579 million) in cash, concurrent with completion of the merger. The Aditya Birla Group will then own 26.0% of the combined company and Idea's other shareholders will own the remaining 28.9%.
- The Aditya Birla Group has the right to acquire up to a 9.5% additional stake from Vodafone under an agreed mechanism with a view to equalising the shareholdings over time. If the Aditya Birla Group does not equalise its stake, Vodafone will reduce its holding in order to equalise its ownership with that of the Aditya Birla Group. Until equalisation is achieved, the additional shares held by Vodafone will be restricted and votes will be exercised jointly under the terms of the shareholders' agreement.

Prior to completion of the transaction, Vodafone and Idea intend to sell their standalone tower assets and Idea's 11.15% stake in Indus Towers to reduce leverage in the combined company. Vodafone will also explore strategic options for its 42% stake in Indus Towers; potential options include either a partial or a full disposal.

As the combined company will be jointly controlled by Vodafone and the Aditya Birla Group, Vodafone will deconsolidate<sup>11</sup> Vodafone India immediately. Post-closing, the combined company will be reported as a joint venture by Vodafone and accounted for under the equity method, resulting in a decrease of Vodafone's net debt. As described above, as at 31 December 2016 this would have been INR552 billion (US\$8.2 billion), which together with the INR39 billion (US\$579 million) of cash received from the Aditya Birla Group would lower Vodafone Group's reported leverage by around 0.3x Net Debt/EBITDA<sup>12</sup>.

The transaction is expected to be accretive to Vodafone's cash flow<sup>13</sup> from the first full year post completion.

<sup>8</sup> Excluding IBS (in-building solutions), COW (cell-sites on wheels) and MSC (mobile switching centre) towers and tenancies

<sup>9</sup> Based on: (Idea market capitalisation of INR263 billion (US\$3.9billion) / 50%) x 45.1% + INR39 billion (US\$579 million) (received for 4.9% stake transferred) + Vodafone India net debt contribution of INR552 billion (US\$8.2 billion) based on Idea's net debt (based on pro forma adjustments as per transaction definitions) as at 31 December 2016; Idea market capitalisation as at 27 January 2017 (30 trading day closing VWAP of INR 72.5), being the last trading day prior to the announcement by Vodafone and Idea that they were in discussions in relation to this transaction; Idea mobile valuation calculated excluding Idea's 11.15% stake in Indus Towers (valued at 8.8x LTM EBITDA, as per Bharti Infratel's multiple as at 17th March 2017 close).

<sup>10</sup> Based on pro forma adjustments as per transaction definitions

<sup>11</sup> The Vodafone Group's reported revenue, EBITDA, operating profit and profit before and after tax for the year ending 31 March 2017 will exclude Vodafone India, with the after tax result of Vodafone India being presented as a single line in the income statement. All previous years' financial results will be restated onto this basis

<sup>12</sup> Based on expected FY2017 year-end net debt/EBITDA. Net debt/ EBITDA impact includes the INR39 billion (US\$579 million) payment from the Aditya Birla Group, is adjusted for the deconsolidation of Vodafone Netherlands and is subject to closing adjustments

<sup>13</sup> FCF as defined by Vodafone on a guidance basis but after spectrum payments

## Synergy opportunity

The combination of Idea and Vodafone India will create the scale to meet customers' rapidly accelerating demand for data consumption, and enable significant efficiencies. Run-rate cost and capex synergies are expected to reach INR140 billion (US\$2.1 billion) on an annual basis by the fourth full year post-completion. This is equivalent to a net present value of approximately INR700 billion (US\$10.5 billion)<sup>14</sup>, after integration costs<sup>15</sup>. Operating cost savings represent 60% of the expected run-rate savings<sup>16</sup>.

The major expected sources of cost and capex synergies include:

- rationalising network infrastructure, generating operational efficiencies, lower maintenance expenses and savings in energy costs;
- higher spectrum availability and larger single radio access network (RAN) deployment coupled with re-deployment of overlapping equipment from rationalised sites, resulting in lower capex;
- service centres, back office and distribution efficiencies;
- streamlining regional and nationwide IT systems and evolving to a single IT system for the new entity; and
- optimising general and administration costs.

The Parties also anticipate some regulatory dis-synergies. These are primarily driven by spectrum liberalisation payments and requirements to meet regulatory spectrum caps and market share thresholds in certain circles one year after completion of the transaction. Spectrum liberalisation costs are expected to have a net present value impact of approximately INR30 billion (US\$0.5 billion).

## Equalisation mechanism

The Aditya Birla Group has the right to acquire more shares from Vodafone, under an agreed mechanism, with a view to equalising the Parties' shareholdings over time. Until equalisation is achieved, the additional shares held by Vodafone will be restricted and votes will be exercised jointly under the terms of the shareholders' agreement.

The Parties have agreed a standstill period for the first three years after closing, during which neither Party can buy any shares from or sell any shares to a third party.

During the standstill period, the Aditya Birla Group has the right to purchase a stake of up to 9.5% in the combined company from Vodafone at an agreed price that is equivalent to an equity value of INR946 billion (US\$14.1 billion) for 100% of the combined company (post-closing). This is equivalent to INR130 per share, which represents a premium of 80% to Idea's undisturbed share price of INR72.5 (based on the 30 trading day VWAP as at 27 January 2017<sup>17</sup>).

If the Parties' shareholdings have not been equalised over the first three years, the Aditya Birla Group needs to inform Vodafone how many further shares (up to a maximum of 9.5% less any shares purchased in the first three years), it wishes to acquire. The Aditya Birla Group then has a period of 12 months to complete such purchase at the prevailing market price. At the end of the third year after closing, the standstill provisions expire in relation to all shares other than those that the Aditya Birla Group has committed to acquire, if any.

From the beginning of the fifth year after completion, if Vodafone and the Aditya Birla Group's shareholdings in Idea are not yet equal, Vodafone will sell down shares in the combined company to equalise its shareholding to that of the Aditya Birla Group over the following five-year period<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> Pre spectrum liberalisation payments, or INR670 billion (US\$10.0 billion) post spectrum liberalisation payments

<sup>15</sup> Total expected integration costs and capex is expected to be approximately INR133 billion (US\$2.0 billion) from completion until the end of the fourth full year

<sup>16</sup> Excluding integration costs

<sup>17</sup> Based on the fully diluted number of shares of Idea of 3,630 million

<sup>18</sup> Subject to certain conditions

## **Joint governance and management**

Vodafone and the Aditya Birla Group have entered into a shareholders' agreement, and it is intended that the combined company's articles will be amended at closing to reflect certain rights for each Party.

Following completion, the Board of the combined entity will be comprised of 12 directors including three directors appointed by each of Vodafone and the Aditya Birla Group, and six independent directors.

The Aditya Birla Group will have the sole right to appoint the Chairman (as one of its three directors), who will be Mr Kumar Mangalam Birla. Vodafone will have the sole right to appoint the Chief Financial Officer. Both Vodafone and the Aditya Birla Group will jointly agree on the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Operating Officer.

Those roles – together with those of the broader management team – will be confirmed prior to closing, with appointments made on the principle of 'the best person for the job'.

The Parties' rights under the shareholders' agreement – and the amended articles of the combined company – will be subject to a number of conditions including (but not limited to) a Party maintaining its shareholding in the combined company above 26% until 31 March 2020 and above 21% thereafter.

## **Capital structure and dividend policy**

Pro forma net debt as at 31 December 2016 would have been INR1,079 billion (US\$16.1 billion). On this basis, leverage of the combined company would have been 4.4x LTM EBITDA<sup>19</sup>. Pro forma for the sale of Vodafone and Idea's standalone towers as well as Idea's 11.15% stake in Indus and the estimated run-rate opex synergies, leverage would have been 3.0x LTM EBITDA<sup>20</sup>.

The Parties expect the combined company to be self-funding going forwards but are committed to maintaining appropriate leverage prior to closing and thereafter, aided by the expected sale of Idea and Vodafone India's standalone towers as well as Idea's 11.15% stake in Indus.

The Parties have agreed a capital structure and dividend policy which is expected to be implemented post completion. This will ensure that the combined company is appropriately capitalised and that excess cash flow<sup>21</sup> is distributed to shareholders.

## **Conditions to completion and indicative timetable**

The transaction is subject to approvals from the relevant regulatory authorities. Vodafone and Idea have undertaken preparatory work on the required scheme and other necessary filings.

The transaction is also subject to other customary closing conditions, including the absence of any material adverse change. Shareholder approval will be required from Idea shareholders under a scheme of arrangement. The transaction is not subject to approval from Vodafone shareholders.

The transaction has a break-fee of INR33 billion (US\$500 million) that would become payable under certain circumstances.

Vodafone and Idea anticipate that completion will take place during the 2018 calendar year.

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<sup>19</sup> Based on 2 x Idea's net debt (based on pro forma adjustments as per transaction definitions) of INR527 billion (US\$7.9 billion) as at 31 December 2016 + INR25 billion (US\$369 million)

<sup>20</sup> Pro-forma for the estimated run-rate opex synergies of US\$1.3 billion in the fourth full year of operations, post completion, assuming tower assets sold at the Bharti Infratel multiple of 8.8x LTM EBITDA as at 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 close and CGT deducted from the proceeds

<sup>21</sup> Excess cash flow takes into account the future capital requirement of the combined company



## Key financials

<i>12 months ending 31 December 2016</i> <i>INRm (US\$m)</i>	<b>Vodafone India</b> <b>(IFRS)</b>	<b>Idea Cellular</b> <b>(IndAS)</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	INR446,644m (US\$6,671m)	INR369,278m (US\$5,516m)
<b>EBITDA</b>	INR129,872m (US\$1,940m)	INR114,139m (US\$1,705m)
<b>Capex</b>	INR78,644m (US\$1,175m)	INR74,721m (US\$1,116m)

This announcement contains inside information.

– ends –

## About Vodafone

Vodafone is one of the world's largest telecommunications groups and provides a range of services including voice, messaging, data and fixed communications. Vodafone has mobile operations in 26 countries, partners with mobile networks in 49 more, and fixed broadband operations in 17 markets. As of 31 December 2016, Vodafone had 470 million mobile customers and 14.3 million fixed broadband customers. For more information, please visit: [www.vodafone.com](http://www.vodafone.com).

## About Aditya Birla Group

The Aditya Birla Group is a US\$41 billion conglomerate with operations in more than 36 countries. The Aditya Birla Group has been operating in India and globally for over 5 decades. Its businesses range among others, mobile telecommunications, metals and mining, cement, carbon black, textiles, garments, chemicals, fertilizers, life insurance and financial services industries.

## About Idea Cellular

Idea Cellular is the third largest wireless operator in India, Idea is listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in India. Idea is part of the Aditya Birla Group, which is one of the largest business groups in India.

For the last twelve months to December 31, 2016, Idea Cellular reported revenue of INR369billion (US\$5.5 billion) and EBITDA of INR114 billion (US\$1.7 billion).

## Advisors to Vodafone and Vodafone India

Lead financial advisors: Morgan Stanley and Robey Warshaw.

Financial advisors: Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Kotak Investment Bank, Rothschild and UBS.

Legal advisors: S&R Associates and Slaughter and May.

## Advisors to Idea

Legal advisors: Vaish Associates Advocates and Bharucha & Partners.

Fairness opinion provider: Axis Capital Limited.

## Joint Independent Valuers

Walker Chandio & Co LLP and Bansi S. Mehta & Co.

**Enquiries:****Vodafone**

Investor Relations

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Media Relations

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e-mail: [investorrelations@idea.adityabirla.com](mailto:investorrelations@idea.adityabirla.com)**Notes to Editors**

FX rates used:

INR / US\$ 66.95

**Disclaimer**

Certain information contained in this document constitutes "forward-looking statements", which can be identified by the use of terms such as "may", "will", "should", "expect", "anticipate", "project", "estimate", "intend", "continue", "target" or "believe" (or the negatives thereof) or other variations thereon or comparable terminology, or by discussions of strategy, plans, objectives, goals, future events or intentions. Such statements express the intentions, opinions, or current expectations of the parties with respect to possible future events and are based on current plans, estimates and forecasts, which the parties have made to the best of their respective knowledge, concerning, among other things, the respective business, results of operations, financial position, prospects, growth and strategies of Vodafone and Idea Cellular Limited ("**Idea**") (an Aditya Birla Group company), statements regarding the transaction and the anticipated consequences and benefits of the transaction, the future growth prospects of the combined company and the targeted closing date of the transaction, and the intended financing for the combined company (including the intended leverage). Due to various risks and uncertainties, actual events or results or the actual performance may differ materially from those reflected or contemplated in such forward-looking statements.

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Furthermore, a review of the reasons why actual results and developments may differ materially from the expectations disclosed or implied within forward-looking statements can be found:

- under "Forward-looking statements" and "Principal risk factors and uncertainties" in the Vodafone Group Plc's annual report for the year ended 31 March 2016; and
- under "Other Information – Forward-Looking Statements" in Vodafone Group Plc's Half-Year Financial Report for the six months ended 30 September 2016.

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