



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **COAI'S PRESS STATEMENT OF 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2016 SURREPTITIOUS**

**Mumbai, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016:** The press statement of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) Director General Sh. Rajan S. Mathews is surreptitious, defamatory, and an act of contempt of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and devoid of any merit.

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (RJIL), in its letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2016 suggested overhaul of COAI's regulations by a committee comprising of three retired Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India. These regulations as exist today admittedly are skewed in favour of incumbent operators, giving them *de facto* and *de jure* control over COAI to promote their vested interests. RJIL had in its letter quoted specific instances of flagrant misuse of COAI by the incumbent operators with the active connivance of Sh. Rajan S. Mathews, its Director General.

Contrary to Sh. Rajan S. Mathews' claim that these are bilateral issues and should have been addressed within the association, he himself has raised several bilateral issues in external forums in the last few months without ever discussing these within the association. Further, all the forums within the association are controlled by the incumbent dominant operators owing to their disproportionate voting rights. It is also a known fact that Tata Teleservices and Reliance Communications have left COAI in the past because of such biases.

The press statement of Sh. Rajan S. Mathews skirts away from discussing the genuine need to deliberate RJIL's concerns and fair need to overhaul COAI's regulations. This, through a transparent process by a reputed and independent committee, would only strengthen COAI and ensure that it works in furtherance of its stated objectives i.e. promoting the cause of the common and mutual interests of telecom operators; in accordance with basic tenets of democracy, discussions, fair and adequate representation; no alienation of its members; encouraging fair competition in the market, etc.

While RJIL was indeed aware of the extant COAI's regulations at the time of becoming a member, RJIL cannot be restrained to raise its genuine and fair concerns, especially and more so, when the incumbent dominant operators are colluding to use the very same COAI regulations against RJIL to promote their anticompetitive activities.

The allegations of Sh. Rajan S. Mathews in the press statement to the effect that RJIL entered the sector as a "**Back Door Operator**" are on the face of it defamatory and borders on contempt of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. COAI and Sh. Rajan S. Mathews is fully aware that these allegations were part of a public interest litigation filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 382 of 2014 – Centre for Public Interest Litigation vs. Union of India & Others, and all of the said allegations have been duly adjudicated upon and rejected by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.



RJIL has already put Sh. Rajan S. Mathews on notice demanding apology for issuing the press statement, with copy to COAI seeking appropriate action against Sh. Rajan S. Mathews, and should they not act upon it, RJIL will pursue legal recourse with full vigour.

**About Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited:**

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (“Jio”), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (“RIL”), has built a world-class all-IP data strong future proof network with latest 4G LTE technology. It is the only network conceived and born as a Mobile Video Network from the ground up and supporting Voice over LTE technology. It is future ready and can be easily upgraded to support even more data, as technologies advance on to 5G, 6G and beyond.

Jio will bring transformational changes in the Indian digital services space to enable the vision of Digital India for 1.2 billion Indians and propel India into global leadership in digital economy. It has created an eco-system comprising network, devices, applications and content, service experience and affordable tariffs for everyone to live the Jio Digital Life. As part of its customer offers, Jio has revolutionised the Indian telecom landscape by making voice calls for Jio customers absolutely free, across India, to any network, and always. Jio makes India the highest quality, most affordable data market in the world so that every Indian can do Datagiri.

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