Mobile Number Portability (MNP)
Finally, India will see nation wide introduction of Mobile Number Portability (MNP) — which allows a mobile phone users to change his service provider while retaining his existing mobile number from tomorrow i.e. 20th January 2011.

India’s telecom watchdog Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), today issued official notification for the implementation of the Pan India Mobile Number Portability (MNP) which would come into force all over the country from January 20. However MNP was launched in Haryana Telecom circle on 25th November 2010.

In a bid to encash the up-coming pan India Mobile Number Portability launch, all the leading mobile service operators already kicked off their MNP Campaign over Electronic & Print media as well as social networking sites like twitter and facebook. Vodaofone and Idea Cellular has also come up with a Toll Free MNP Helpline with pan-India number.

This is how Mobile Number portability would work for a normal user.

1. Send the following SMS to 1900 – PORT <Your Mobile Number> – eg. PORT 9123456789

2. You will get an SMS with your unique porting code. This is a unique number that will be maintained along with your mobile number with a third party called MNP Service Provider (Selected companies for this service in India- Syniverse Technologies and Telcordia). The unique code has a expiry time. You need to apply to the new preferred operator with that code within the stipulated time.

3. The new operator will communicate with existing operator and ask for permission. If approved the new operator will set a time for porting and communicate this to MNP provider and existing operator.

4. On the set date and time, the current operator will disconnect the number and pass the message to MNP provider.

5. The new operator will now claim that number and MNP would maintain a central database with the new details.
To avail the MNP, Customer will have to send an SMS “PORT” followed by Mobile Number to short code 1900. Based on this subscriber will get a unique porting code as SMS from the existing service provider. The customer can then make an application in the prescribed form mentioning the code to the selected new service provider for porting of number.

FAQ’s

1. What is the cost of switching an operator through MNP?
The max. charge can be Rs.19. This has to be paid to the new operator. The operator can choose to charge you lesser.

2. Can i change operator multiple times using MNP?
Yes. Though there is a limitation of how frequently you can change the operator. Once switched you cannot change the operator for the next 90 days.
3. Will my mobile number be disconnected during porting?
Yes. During disconnection from old and connecting to new operator you number will be
dead for about 2 hours. Fortunately, this will happen only between 10PM to 5AM.

4. How much time will the whole process take?
According to rules set by TRAI, it shouldn’t take more than 4 days for the complete
process from the time of applying to new operator.

5. Can i carry forward my prepaid balance to the new operator after MNP?
No.

6. Can a postpaid user apply for MNP?
Yes. The old operator will approve only after all dues are cleared.

7. Can i switch circle through MNP?
No. The inter-circle portability has not been implemented yet.

8. Can i switch from prepaid to postpaid or vice-versa with MNP?
Yes. You can do that even without MNP.

9. Do i need to have a new SIM from new operator?
Yes. You will need to change your SIM. Apart from number retention everything is same
as getting a new connection.

10. Can i Switch from CDMA to GSM thorough MNP?
Yes.