

## **Programme**

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| 11.00 am   | Registration   |
| 11.15 am   | Opening Remarks by Mr. Vittorio Colao, CEO, Vodafone Group                       |
| 11:20 am   | Introduction to the Report by the Editor, Dr. Diane Coyle                        |
|            | Policy Implications of the Research by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Director<br>& CE, ICRIER |
|            | Speech by Mr. Siddarth Behura, Secretary Department of<br>Telecommunication      |
| 11.55 am   | Vote of Thanks - Dr. Rajiv Kumar   |
| 12:00 noon | Coffee Break   |
| 12:15 pm   | Presentation of Individual Papers:   |
|            | An Introduction and Econometric analysis of the Impact of Mobile                 |
|            | The Impact of Mobile on Agriculture Productivity                                 |
|            | A Survey of Usage of Mobile in Poor Urban Areas                                  |
|            | The Impact of Mobiles in the SME Sector  |
| 1: 15 pm   | Discussion   |
| 1: 30 pm   | Buffet Lunch   |

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## **Abstract**

### **India: Impact of Mobile Phones**

Earlier research has shown the high correlation between telecom infrastructure and GDP, especially in developing countries where mobile phones are the cheaper and sometimes only means of access and connectedness. The econometric analysis in this report extends the conclusion that there is a causal relationship between state level mobile penetration and higher economic growth. Indian states with high mobile penetration can be expected to grow faster than those states with lower mobile penetration rates, and by 1.2% points for every 10% increase in the penetration rate. The research also highlights the role of mobile along with complementary skills and other infrastructure, for the full realization of benefits of access to communications in agriculture and among SMEs. Importantly, telecommunications cannot be seen in isolation from other parts of the development process. In urban slums, the research reveals the importance of network effects, i.e. the value of mobiles increases if the social and economic milieu is also users of mobiles.

This report argues that a policy shift is necessary to sustain the progress towards a truly world-class telecommunications service that India and its citizens deserve. This will underpin India's competitiveness in the volatile global marketplace, and ensure that the benefits of growth are more widely shared as the economy grows and further integrates with global markets.