

INSIDE
GOVERNMENT

power point

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DSIIC FOR
SAVING POWER

DSIIC will take the technical expertise of Bureau of Energy Efficiency and promote all round energy saving in government, institutional, industrial and household sectors of Delhi. A memorandum of understanding between DSIIC and BEE was signed by Chetan Sanghi, MD, DSIIC and Saurabh Kumar, a senior BEE official in the presence of Minister of Industries Harun Yusuf.

PSU 'succession planning'

Arup Roy Choudhury, chairman, Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) has underlined the need for succession planning in public sector enterprises to meet the challenges of globalisation. Speaking at a seminar on global leadership programme organised by SCOPE and International Management Institute (IMI) he said leadership was among the topmost challenges confronting PSUs.

Bank of India's Foundation Day

Bank of India celebrated its 104th foundation day last week in a function presided over by finance minister Pranab Mukherjee. On the occasion, 104 new outlets were opened and the bank launched two deposit products specifically designed for small savers and small borrowers. The bank also rolled out a bouquet of social banking activities, a press statement said.

Why your mouse hates govt portals

SITE AUTOPSY A study on govt department websites says they are difficult to navigate, have poor design sense

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NEW DELHI: The information age has dawned not just on netizens hooked to Facebook, Twitter and Wikipedia. With every department boasting of a website, even the Indian government has taken to the digital highway with a bang. But there's a slight problem.

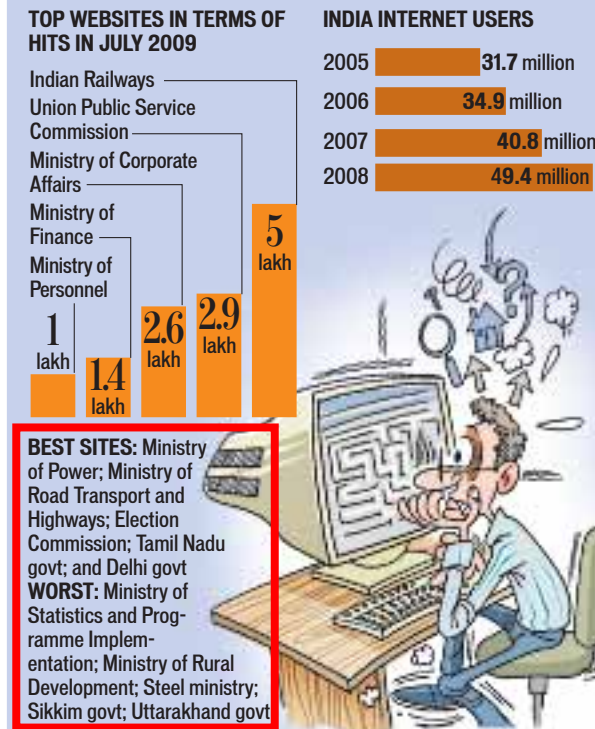
A study — Indian Government Online-2009 — carried out by Webchutney, a company that provides consultancy services in portal implementation, has found government websites lacking user-friendly features.

The citizens, who want to access information from government websites, have to bear with, among a host of unfriendly features, the website's poor design.

Of the 35 state and central government websites studied, only 33 per cent had a sitemap to help navigate loads of information on the portal. Only 21 per cent had a section on frequently asked questions (FAQ). The Indian government that hosts close to 6,770 websites is among the largest online information providers in the world.

"The amount of time lost in identifying relevant sources of information due to lack of a site map can negate the very intent of having a website," the study said.

"The cause of the problem was failure of the websites to meet global standards in best practices, design and functionality, leading to citizens facing problems in accessing informa-



Source : Study of Indian Government Online-2009, illustration: DURGA

tion."

The Ministry of Labour website fails to meet several design guidelines necessary for any portal to be effective, the study said.

The findings come at a time when the government has decided to invest heavily on e-governance (Rs 2,530 crore in the budget of 2009-10) and provide services in flagship programmes with the help of Information Technology.

"All National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme workers would be able to access

their account summary on web through panchayat-level IT centres," said Dr Mihir Shah, member, planning commission rural development in-charge.

Several e-governance initiatives have already been successful. A Commerce ministry project for industry to access government information and online teacher's transfer in Kerala is one of them.

"Citizens are increasingly using online media to interact with the government," the study said.

hardat work

New envoy to Lebanon appointed

Ravi Thapar, an IFS official of the 1983-batch and presently joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to Lebanon.

Three senior cops get promotion

Three 1980-batch officers of the Delhi Police — K.K. Maheshwari, P.R. Meena and S.K. Jain — have been promoted as additional Director General. Meena is posted in the security wing of the Delhi Police while Jain is presently in Chandigarh.

A year after the blasts and death

Mohan Chand Sharma's family organised a prayer meeting on the Delhi Police inspector's first death anniversary last week. While Sharma died in an encounter with terrorists in Batla House area of the Capital on September 19 last year, the date for the anniversary was calculated as per the Hindu calendar. However, surprisingly none from the Delhi Police top brass was present at the meeting except Joint Commissioner Karnal Singh, DCP Alok Kumar and Sharma's colleagues from the special cell.

SONU MEHTA / HT PHOTO



Inspector Sharma was killed in the encounter against terror suspects at Batla House following the September 13 serial blasts in the Capital last year.

Promotion upheaval in RAW

The Research and Analysis Wing has been in news for all the wrong reasons the past week with the agency's second rung leaders putting down their pens to protest a colleague getting his due. But not everyone, it seems, had a genuine grouse if there was one at all. One of the four officers to go on (protest) leave had been considered for promotion just a few months ago and flunked the acid test at the departmental promotion committee. The controversy, it seems, has come as a blessing in disguise for this officer as he would get a second chance to try his luck. Under ordinary circumstances, he would have had to wait for a year for a review.

INTERVIEW R.K. UPADHYAY

'TCIL is a true multinational'

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Operational in 40 countries, Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) is a true multinational. It performed well in the financial year ending March 2009. Its chairman and managing director R.K. Upadhyay spoke with HT on his strategy to expand TCIL. Excerpts:

How did TCIL perform in 2008-09?

TCIL's performance in the last financial year has been very good. Our consolidated revenue has gone up by 62 per cent to Rs 1,366 crore and the profit has gone up by 70 per cent to Rs 170.2 crore.

What is the secret behind the good performance?

We have been able to manage projects efficiently and bag

a number of good projects in the Middle-east and India. In Africa we are executing a mega project of tele-medicine and tele-education.

In how many countries are you currently working?

We are working in about 40 countries in Middle East, Africa and the Saarc region. They include Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria and Nepal.

Do you work only in telecom and ICT sectors?

Apart from Telecom and ICT, we are focusing strongly on power and the civil infrastructure sector. In power, we are engaged in RAPDRP scheme of the government in the capacity of an IT consultant.

Name some of your

important projects?

Pan African e-network project; fibre to the home project in Kuwait and UAE; national Internet backbone project for BSNL, KU band satellite project in Nepal, Tele-medicine and Tele-education project for SAARC countries, virtual university project for the university of Madras and construction of highway in Assam, and Cyber city project in Nigeria are some of the important projects that we are executing currently.

R.K. Upadhyay, TCIL chairman and managing director

