

"You need to make a commitment, and once you make it, then life will give you some answers."

- Les Brown

EDITORIAL

Karnataka State Industrial Times

The Weekly Voice of Karnataka Entrepreneurs



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Need for committed govt. employees

Our experience in dealing with government employees reinforces the general impression that this segment needs to bone up on the basics of Information Technology, especially in its interaction with the media. More often than not, press releases issued by government agencies are in the PDF format instead of the Word file. This requires the PDF file to be converted into a usable form for editing purpose. In the process, a lot of precious time is lost which could have been utilized elsewhere.

The RTO is no different at the grassroots level. Employees still maintain dog-eared files with stones used as paper weights, while old cupboards are stuffed with mounds of archival material. This makes the visitor wonder whether he is in the IT city, which hosts some of the biggest IT majors and hundreds of MNCs. Many of its citizens are tech savvy and work for companies providing offshore services around the world.

For instance, the official GoK website (www.karnataka.gov.in) shows the number of districts as 27, while the correct information is 30. In June 2007, the Janata Dal government created two additional districts-Ramnagar and Chikkaballapur and in Dec. 2009 Yadgir became the 30th district of the State.

While trying to improve the caliber of unemployed youths and preparing them government service, the State Department of Employment & Training should also do something for those manning government jobs. Its National Employment Service Scheme should seek to supplement ongoing efforts with a parallel initiative to upgrade the skills of the government employees. Its website says that to ensure a steady flow of skilled manpower to industries and equip the youth with practical skills, training programmes will be set up to upgrade the technical skills of the job-seekers. The website adds: "While India has large young population, only 5% of the Indian labour force in the age group of 20-24 years has obtained vocational skills through formal means, whereas the percentage in industrialized countries varies between 60% and 96%. About 63% of the school students drop out at different stages before reaching Class-X."

The text continues: "Only about 2.5 million vocational training seats are available in the country whereas about 12.8 million persons enter the labour market every year. Even out of these training places, very few are available for early school dropouts. This signifies that a large number of school dropouts do not have access to skill development for improving their employability." The Department also grooms employees in the middle management level who feel the need for change. Such a career change, it points out, is often induced by a dynamic economy and a demand-driven job market or alternatively due to lack of incentives, underutilization of talent, etc. The Department stresses the need for a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity & Threat) analysis for proper evaluation and mid-course correction. The question here crops up: Why not a SWOT analysis for government employees at the middle and senior administrative levels to put the bureaucracy on a sound footing?

To this end, the Sixth Pay Commission for government employees had recommended that the broad contours of the system should include, among other things, performance appraisal prior to increments or promotions, in a paradigm shift away from the normal routine. It is time to implement the recommendations in the interest of streamlining government employees' performance, so that the government and the private sector march in tandem. The hiatus between the two creates a bottleneck not only at the macro level, such as issuance of licence or a new regulation, but also where the interaction involves the use of IT at the basic level.

Karnataka is the first state to announce IT Policy in the year 1997. This Policy has acted as an important catalyst for the growth of IT Industry in the State. The industry, however, is growing in leaps and bounds. The type and nature of business are rapidly expanding.

Karnataka is becoming the centre for more and more companies in sophisticated IT Products and Services.

- Source: Karnataka—
The Millennium IT Policy:
IT for the common man

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Spotlight

New Wipro V.P. for emerging markets

- KSIT NEWS SERVICE

The company is launching a special initiative, with a focus on strategising solutions for the emerging markets.

BANGALORE: At a time when IT services companies are shaking off the impact of the 2008 slowdown and looking forward to better growth, India's third largest software exporter, Wipro, which has lagged its peers in the previous quarters, is sharpening its focus on emerging markets.

The company has appointed I Vijaykumar, chief technology officer of Wipro's IT business since 2007, as vice-president (Emerging Market Solutions). Dr. Anurag Srivastava is taking on the role of Vijaykumar as the chief technology officer (CTO) & senior vice-president for the IT business.

In an e-mail to employees, Wipro's CEO, TK Kurien said: "The emerging markets will be a key strategic growth area for Wipro. To augment this, we are launching a special initiative, with

a focus on strategising solutions for these markets." He added: "We have also signed a memorandum of understanding with a leading research institution in Europe, whose charter is to create product engineering solutions for these markets."

Srivastava, who will now report to Kurien, is currently the head of Wipro Energy and Sustainability Services business, which includes sustainability advisory, connected infrastructure and energy-managed services to deliver greenhouse gas reduction and energy cost optimisation for Wipro clients.

The company is on a restructuring drive to improve its top line and widen the gap between its nearest competitor Cognizant.

The company has shown greater affinity and focus towards verticals like energy and natural resources which require greater domain capabilities. Wipro recently acquired the global oil and gas IT arm of US-based technology company SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation for \$150 million (Rs.675 crore).

Earlier, after a lacklustre performance, Wipro scrapped its joint CEO model and appointed TK Kurien as the new CEO with the mandate of realigning strategic bets and restructuring the organisation to create a more focused company which is quicker on its feet. In the process, Wipro

has seen the exit of many senior and top-level executives, including the likes of Mark Fleming, head of Wipro's global media and telecom Strategic Business Unit (SBU).

The surge in the growth of emerging markets, collectively worth 45% of the global GDP over a decade, has attracted the attention of MNCs. The emerging economies led by China, India and others are projected to add around one billion households with earnings of over \$20,000 in the next 15 years. These MNCs will explore innovative solutions for their needs with an IT component.

