

ASTER TALK

Interactive In-house Magazine

March 2006

Hi! Hope everybody enjoyed the Shivarathi festival with religious fervor and gaiety. During the month of March and April festivals like Holi, Ugadi, Bisakhi, Bihu, Vishu and many more are on the cards. May Almighty God fill up your coffer with full of grains, which marks all round prosperity, which will also boost our booming economy to greater heights. Wish you all A Very Happy Ugadi, which is on 30th March, 06.

Aster as usual is galloping with projects, some in the finishing stage and some in the half way completion and of course some new projects are in hand. All Asterians are striving hard to complete the projects with high quality technical skill

We expected a grate boom in the budget 2006 -2007 presented by the Finance Minister Mr. P. Chidambaram especially for the salaried class but disappointed everyone by adding a slice of service tax by adding many number of services within the service tax net. Any way we have requested our financial wizard Mr. Sastry Garu to give a small article on the pros and cons and its implications. We may come out with this during the next months' Aster Talk once the finance budget is passed by the Parliament.

 *News from the Div. desk follows:*

ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION

✦ Installation & Commissioning of GSM & CDMA

Dedicated efforts are on by our teams for Installation & Commissioning projects at Rajasthan, AP, Gujarat, UP West, Karnataka, Punjab, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and UP East.

✦ Installation & Commissioning of DLC

We are rendering our professional expertise for projects at AP, Karnataka, Kerala and Kolkatta.

✦ Installation & Commissioning MW Hops

Installation & Commissioning of MW in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Kerala.

✦ Installation & Commissioning of Micro SDM

Installation of Micro SDM project is being well executed in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and AP.

✦ Resource Support Management

Our teams are working as resources for switch installation and Installation & Commissioning of Micro SDM in Karnataka.

✦ Electrification of Cell Site

Our teams are working on **Electrical Projects** for Hutch in Rajasthan.

IN-BUILDING SOLUTIONS:

- **Dedicated efforts are on by our teams for its ongoing In-Building Solutions Projects in Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkatta, Jalandhar & New Delhi.** Adding value to the Cellular Service providers by enhancing coverage inside building.

NEW AGREEMENTS:

- We are glad to expand our services in Gujarat for Installation & Commissioning of GSM



IT ENABLED SERVICES

- Our teams are working for **LAN structuring** and cabling at Bangalore.
 - Our teams are working on **Wireless ISP Solutions** in Karnataka for the Equipment of **Inscape Data Corporation, USA.**
 - Our Engineers had the privilege to participate in **Unmanned Ground Vehicle Seminar** organized by **Vehicle research Defense Establishment** at Ahmednagar, Maharashtra from 26th Feb. to 28th Feb 2006.
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ATSIL DIVISION

- The Production work on Aviation Lamps is progressing satisfactorily. 1,990 Aviation Lamps have been supplied so far from the factory at Parwanoo.
- Work on the production work on 77 units of Train Indication Boards has since been completed.
- An order for supply of 150 units of AC operated Fire Alarms has been received. The Production work is to commence shortly.

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION

WORK ORDERS RECEIVED:

- We have received the letter of Award for Operation & Maintenance of 14 Nos Repeater Stations located in Telecom Links of ER & NER at Kolkata
- Received an order for Deployment of Fault Rectification Team at Agra and Rourkela.
- We have received the Letter of Intent for Deployment of Maintenance team for Preventive Maintenance and fault rectification of OFC in Mysore – Sakleshpur section of southern Region for a period of One year.
- We have received the work order for Shifting of Optical Fibre Cable at Bidadi Yard and KGI – MYS Section.

- We have taken over 359 Cell Sites for O&M of BTS Cell Sites at New Delhi

PROJECTS:

We have deployed the team for Preventive Maintenance and fault rectification of OFC in Mysore – Sakleshpur section of southern Region for a period of One year.

We have deployed the personnel for Operation & Maintenance of 14 Nos Repeater Stations located in Telecom Links of ER & NER

We have no cable cut syndrome for VSNL for the section of KR Pet – Sulya, we will get the incentives for this section.

We have no cable cut syndrome for RAILTEL for the below sections, we will get the incentives for all sections.

- Cuddappah
- Dharmapuri
- Dodballapur
- Baiappanahalli
- Itawah
- Agra
- Solan
- Ambala
- Laksar
- Itarsi
- Satna

MANPOWER:

We are having Total Manpower of *807 Employees* for supporting our on going projects.



RAILWAY SIGNALLING DIVISION



New Orders:

We have received two new orders

- For re-spacing of Automatic Signals between Bhusaval & Jalgaon, Central Railway.
- New Signaling in connection with Gauge conversion at Quilon Jn., Southern Railways.

RSD Teams are working at

- Tiptur. Karnataka, South Western Railway.
- Kardi. Karnataka, South Western Railway.
- Tondiarpet. Chennai, Southern Railway.
- Pudukottai. Tamilnadu, Southern Railway.
- Quillon Jn., Kerala, Southern Railway.
- Bhusaval, Maharashtra, Central Railway.



HR & ADMIN

A total of 310 team members have joined the Aster team during the month February 06. We welcome one and all and wish them a bright and rewarding future with Aster.



TELECOM NEWS:

1. The budget, with an increase in service tax, has brought bad news for mobile users. It is going to hit the marginal users the hardest. The service tax hike from 10 per cent to 12 per cent will see increase in the monthly telephone bills and drop in talk value for the users. The telecom operators currently charge 10 per cent as service tax with an additional 2 per cent as educational cess. After the budget, the telcos will charge 12 per cent with an additional 0.24 per cent as educational cess.
2. Within a week of launching their '2 Minute Outgoing Free' to any phone anywhere in India, Idea has unveiled its OneIndia plan for both its prepaid and postpaid customers. "This launch is only a reaffirmation of our commitment to pass on any and all benefits to our valued customers.
3. In a landmark judgement, the Supreme Court said that states cannot impose sales tax on services provided by telecom companies. The apex court added that telecom services cannot be equated with goods. The judgement will have an implication to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore per annum on the sector. Sales tax varies from state to state but in most it is about 12%. If the operators had lost the case, then services would have become costlier by 12% as sales tax is passed on to consumers. "The honourable Supreme Court has vindicated our stand that telecom services are not in the nature of sales of goods and are therefore not liable for any sales tax. This is a welcome judgement, as it will help in further growth of telecom services.
4. Cellular provider Idea said its subscriber base has crossed the seven million mark in the eight-telecom circles, where it has operations. In a release here, the company claimed to have added nearly two million subscribers in a span of one year - from February 2005 to February 2006. Idea is set to grow further with the launch of operations in three more circles in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh (east) and Rajasthan.
5. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued show cause notices to five telecom operators for deteriorating quality of service levels. The telecom regulator had earlier asked all operators to meet the specified quality of service norms by

December 2005. However, after considering the reports filed by the telecom companies, it decided to issue notices to Bharti TeleVentures, Reliance Infocomm, Tata Teleservices, Spice Communications and BPL Mobile (now acquired by Hutch). Other operators Idea Cellular, Hutch, BSNL and MTNL have been let off because the service levels have not deteriorated even though they are still short of the stipulated norms.



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

"Every time you fall, with failure, or drop with disappointment, get up stronger, so when the next obstacle comes, you'll fight harder."

"If you're trying to get something right, but you are not motivated to keep on trying, remember: The person, who finally got it right, couldn't do it until the time that he finally did it. So keep on trying, who knows if the next time you try will be the one that you get it right?"

"Success is not like a magical wand. It doesn't come to those with a silver spoon but is achieved by ones with a vision."

"Commitment, hard work, sincerity and planned efforts are the main keys to success in every profession."

"The bitterness of sacrifice is worth the sweetness of success."

"Motivation together with inspiration is fuel for the mind of every human being."

"It's the colorful patchwork that makes a wonderful quilt. In the case of faith, it's the same. Our faith pattern is not always the same. In different emotional states, we experience different degrees of faith just like the different colors of the patches- some bright, some

dull. But keep on doing the patchwork. Once done, you can see the journey of your faith and your inner world - you will be amazed."

"Don't worry about bad times because sometimes the most beautiful things we have in life are changes and mistakes. Live with no regrets because everything happens for a reason."

THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DILEMMAS

- **If he is late for work in the morning, he is taking advantage of his position**
- **If he gets to the office on time, he is an eager beaver**
- **If the office is running smoothly, he is a dictator**
- **If the office is a mess, he is a poor administrator**
- **If he holds weekly staff meetings, he is in desperate need of ideas**
- **If he does not hold staff meetings, he doesn't appreciate the value of teamwork**
- **If he spends a lot of time with the boss, he is a back-slapper**
- **If he is never with the boss, he is on his way out**
- **If he tries to do all the work himself, he doesn't trust anybody**
- **If he delegates as much as possible, he is lazy**
- **If he tries to get additional personnel, he's an empire-builder**
- **If he does not want more employees, he is a slave driver.**
- **If he takes his brief case home, he is trying to impress the boss**
- **If he leaves the office without any homework, he has a sinecure**
- **If he makes decisions quickly, he is arbitrary**
- **If he does not have an immediate answer, he can't make up his mind**
- **If he works on a day-to-day basis, he lacks foresight**
- **If he has long-range plans, he is a daydreamer.**

- **If he tries to eliminate red tape, he has no regard for the system**
 - **If he insists on going through channels, he is a bureaucrat**
 - **If he is friendly with the office personnel, he is a politician**
 - **If he keeps to himself, he is a snob.**
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LAUGHTER!!!

LONGER DAYS



A man was working in a scrap yard during summer vacation at an engineering university.

One afternoon, he was taking apart a piling hammer that had some very large bolts holding it together.

One of the nuts had corroded on to the bolt; to free it, he started heating the nut with an oxy-acetylene torch.

As he was doing this, one of the dimmest apprentices, Banta, came along. He asked him what he was doing.

He patiently explained that if he heated the nut, it would grow larger and release its grip on the bolt so he could then remove it.

"So things get larger when they get hot, do they?" Banta asked.

Suddenly, an idea flashed into his mind, "Yes," he said, "that's why days are longer in summer and shorter in winter."

There was a long pause, then his face cleared, "You know, I always wondered about that," he said.
