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BT POLL SURVEY

WHO IS THE



'MOST POWERFUL' bureaucrat in the Modi regime?

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Inside information

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22 | BUREAUCRAT OF THE MONTH: In the far-flung Muslim-dominated villages of Assam's Bongaigoan district, a young IAS officer, Anbamuthan Muthuswamy Palaniswamy, is silently fighting a battle and winning the war against the rumour that Japanese Encephalitis vaccine will lead to sterility in the minority community.

26 | COVER STORY: Among all the Modi men, there is one particular bureaucrat who, according to insiders, is the most influential and has the final say in all key postings in the Union Government. This fact has also been corroborated by the result of a poll survey recently conducted by the *Bureaucracy Today* website.



33 | POLICE WATCH: The Central Government is mulling a proposal under which IPS officers will have to specialise in a particular domain and undergo mandatory training before being promoted to a senior rank.

34 | TECHNOCRAT OF THE MONTH: Toyota Kirloskar Motor India Vice President Naveen Soni talks about major CSR projects undertaken by his company under his leadership, the challenges faced by companies while executing those projects and his expectations from the Narendra Modi Government in terms of policies relating to CSR in India.





Role of technology for lawyers



The world has undergone immense technological changes in the last decade. It is, therefore, easy to appreciate the significance of Information Technology for the world of lawyers. The way people live and work no doubt affects the administration of justice in this changing world. ♦ **By Pavani Reddy**

Legal technology is rapidly transforming the practice of law. Legal research has now moved from hard copy to digital systems such as Westlaw, LexisNexis, and cloud-based systems of Google Scholar and Wikipedia. More statutes are now available online. There are many changes in disclosing documents and filing documents in Court. Keeping pace with the changing world, courts in Western countries have adopted modern technology. The most important development that took place in England over the last decade was the modernization of the judiciary.

During 2000 a number of pilot projects were started in the civil courts. Today the English courts are using an electronic diary system which has proved very useful. For example, when a five-day case settles unexpectedly a week before the hearing date, the electronic diary is then used to inter-

rogate the system to see if there are any overbookings at that court or at other courts to fill the Judge's list. The court diary arrangements are updated to show the new listing arrangements. The main function of the judiciary is to hear and determine cases in a fair and timely manner at reasonable cost. When investigated it emerged that the court's and Judge's time was being wasted in sorting out muddled court files, or waiting for information or completing tasks that could have been done more efficiently with technology. The other big development was the Electronic filing of documents and Electronic (paperless) trials and hearings.

The Internet-based electronic filing of court documents has developed in several countries like the US, Australia and Singapore. This has a number of benefits for courts and for the parties to legal proceedings which use

them. Some of these benefits include:

- Managing documents in an electronic format that is cheaper, quicker and more efficient.
- The use of hypertext links in legal submissions and witness statements to link electronically to the underlying documents or legal authorities being referred to. This allows the reader to access the relevant material very easily and efficiently without the need to carry around bundles of files and papers. Very large volumes of material can be stored digitally and carried easily on a USB stick. Through 'cloud technology', documents can now be accessed over the Internet without having to carry anything at all. ■

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info@bureaucracytoday.com

(The author is the Managing Partner of a UK-based law firm, Zaiwala & Co LLP. She is also heading the litigation team at the firm.)