

Desktop code: Pep up the workplace

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WHILE staplers, dolphin tape dispensers, caterpillar table lamps, helicopter penstands. Cute aren't they, but it's not what you think. They are not for the kids' study. They are "boredom busters" that employees are being encouraged to use to liven up their workplace by more and more corporate biggies.

There's no hard and fast rule on where to pick up such desktop accessories. They could be designer stuff or downright roadside items—but there are more and more among the white-collar 'junta', who feel that a perky workplace goes a

long way in lifting up their spirits on a trying day.

Tata Consultancy Services, which topped Hewitt Associates' 2004 list of "best employers in India" in fact, awards employees who have the most creative workspace. Says Vandana Choudhury, HR Head, TCS, "A creatively done workspace releases positive energy and also increases the urge to work. That is why we introduced an award for the most creative workspace two or three years ago so as to encourage innovation and creativity as well as increased love



for one's cubicle."

Personalising the office space could also get rid of any cloistered feeling employees might have in their cubicles. "Doing up your little space the way you like frees it from

the monotonous look it has. It also enhances creativity and produces a more casual, but interesting work environment. This certainly is the case in advertising agencies such as Mudra Communications as well as Ogilvy & Mather," feels Rajat Tuli of Happily Unmarried, a fun utility products company that also produces desktop accessories.

While Mukul Goyal, a product designer who creates desktop accessories, besides other items, feels that "innovation is what brings life to everything even the

dullest of workplaces."

In today's competitive scenario, where time lost is money lost, the work environs is expected to induce productivity. How, for instance, would information technology companies with their global outlook deal with that? Says Wipro's HR Head, Bijay Sahoo: "It's fine for people to decorate their space the way they like provided it doesn't disturb others. With liberty comes responsibility, so there is also a need to be sensitive to others feelings in the office." Sahoo's cautionary tone notwithstanding, Wipro does encourage fun things in its office space. There's even more so in the BPO arm, according to Sahoo. That's not surprising considering that the BPO sector's young and restless lot.

But funky, colourful and designer desktop accessories are making their way to various other of can bring that lost smile on your lips, get you out of what is called 'terminal seriousness', with a bit of encouragement from the employers itself, it can also be the 'dawn' for a more casual workspace and enhanced activity.

