Microsoft, Yahoo Join Forces To Challenge Google

Washington: (IANS) Tech giants Microsoft and Yahoo reached a long-awaited partnership Wednesday in a bid to challenge Google, which holds a 65 percent market share in online search.

Under a 10-year deal, websites from both companies would use Microsoft's Bing search engine, which could now integrate Yahoo's considerable trove of search technology.

Yahoo, in turn, would handle worldwide sales of premium search-related advertising for both companies.

In exchange for becoming Yahoo's sole search provider - and gaining access to its massive traffic - Microsoft would pay its partner 88 percent of the search revenues generated on Yahoo sites.

"This agreement comes with boatloads of value for Yahoo, our users and the industry, and I believe it establishes the foundation for a new era of Internet innovation and development," said Yahoo chief executive Carol Bartz in a statement.

According to Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer, the deal will allow Microsoft to "create more innovation in search, better value for advertisers and real consumer choice in a market currently dominated by a single company".

And in a dig against online search market leader Google, the companies said in a joint statement that "advertisers no longer have to rely on one company that dominates more than 70 percent of all search".

A Yahoo-Microsoft partnership would mean about 28 percent of Internet searches would be performed on their combined platform, according to figures from ratings firm comScore Inc.

That would still be less than half of the about 65 percent market share of Google Inc., which has long dominated the search space.

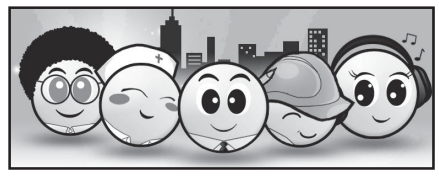
Last year, Microsoft attempted to buy Yahoo for more than $45 billion, an unsolicited bid Yahoo rejected, but the Redmond, Washington-based software giant has long had Yahoo's search business at the top of its wish list, and the two had reportedly been in discussions for months.

Yahoo estimated the deal would add $500 million to its annual operating profit, as well as saving it around $275 million in expenses related to developing and maintaining its own search technology.

Land Your Dream Job - Through Social Networking Sites!

New Delhi: (IANS) Ever thought of logging on to a social networking website to find a job? These sites have become a huge hit with job seekers in India who not only look for career opportunities but also interact with potential employers online.

At a time when recession has hit people hard, social networking sites like Apnacircle.com, Linkedin.com, ibibo.com and Facebook are giving a tough competition to job portals.



"We generate over five million page reviews in a month and we have about half a million registered users on our websites," Yogesh Bansal, founder and CEO of ApnaCircle.com, a career-cum-social networking site, which was launched in the year 2006, told IANS.

"We have managed to loop both the social and career aspects of networking in our site," said Bansal, who was in the US and saw how these social networking sites were helping people get jobs there.

Making a resume is also easy. Job seekers have to just put their professional-cum-personal profile on the sites and add relevant information under various sub-topics, he said.

As soon as the profile appears on the site, one gets an sms and sometimes the sites themselves offer jobs.

For software engineer Ankit Gupta, making a profile on these websites is like giving a classified advertisement in a newspaper.

"I got a reference about a job opening through my friend on one of these sites. I checked the site and applied for the job. After an interview, I was finally placed with 3G Soft Solutions," said an overjoyed Gupta.

"Through such sites one gets to network with different people from different personal and professional spaces who can be useful in building contacts and getting us the desired jobs," Gupta told IANS.

Another benefit of these sites is that many employers often visit various career oriented groups and communities on these sites to hunt for the right employee.

"Our website provides the opportunity to build up a professional network, where prospective employers and employees come to network, connect and build relevant contacts. Various job openings are also listed in a section from where you can look out for job opportunities," said a staff member of ibibo.com who did not want to be named.

Agreeing that these websites act as an added benefit for job seekers, Megha Sareen, a freelance writer, said she got her dream job after she posted 'looking for a job' status on her profile on one of these websites. She said these sites also offer a unique opportunity as there are communities that one can visit to befriend those working in a company that one wants to join.

"People log on to communities and groups of various companies on these sites. So it is easy to make friends with them and it is also good to build one's contact for the future," she added.

Fresh Garlic Better Than Processed

Washington: (IANS) A team of researchers led by an Indian American has unearthed new evidence that freshly crushed garlic has more benefits for the heart than dried garlic.

The evidence challenges the widespread belief that most of garlic's benefits are due to its rich anti-oxidants. Instead, garlic's heart-healthy effects seem to result mainly from hydrogen sulphide, a chemical signalling substance that forms after garlic is cut or crushed. It relaxes blood vessels when eaten.

Dipak K. Das, from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine (UCSM) and colleagues point out that raw crushed garlic generates hydrogen sulphide through a chemical reaction. Although best known as the stuff that gives rotten eggs their distinctive odour, hydrogen sulphide also acts as a chemical messenger in the body, relaxing blood vessels and allowing more blood to pass through. Processed and cooked garlic, however, loses its ability to generate hydrogen sulphide.

The scientists gave freshly crushed garlic and processed garlic to two groups of lab rats, and then studied how well the animals' hearts recovered from simulated heart attacks.

"Both crushed and processed garlic reduced damage from lack of oxygen, but the fresh garlic group had a significantly greater effect on restoring good blood flow in the aorta and increased pressure in the left ventricle of the heart," Das said.

What Triggers Inconsolable Crying In Babies?

Washington: (IANS) Researchers have stumbled on an organism that may unlock the key to what causes colic — inconsolable crying in an otherwise healthy baby.

Colic is defined as unexplained and severe crying in an otherwise healthy infant three months old or younger, and lasts for more than three hours daily for at least three days a week.

"Right now, pediatric gastroenterologists can treat just about anything that comes through the door," said J. Marc Rhoads, professor of pediatrics at The University of Texas Medical School-Houston (UTMS-H), who led the study.

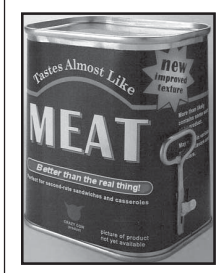
But "with colic, there is no evidence-based treatment we can offer. Colic can be a dangerous situation for a baby. The parent's frustration over the crying can lead to maternal frustration, post-partum depression and even thoughts of harming the baby," Rhoads added.

The study pointed to an organism called Klebsiella, a normally occurring bacterium that can be found in the mouth, skin and intestines. In the study of 36 babies, half of which had colic, researchers found the bacterium and gut inflammation in the intestines.

"We believe that the bacterium may be sparking an inflammatory reaction, causing the gut inflammation," said Rhoads.

"Inflammation in the gut of colicky infants closely compared to levels in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. Colic could prove to be a precursor to other gastrointestinal conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome, celiac disease and allergic gastro-enteropathies.During our study, we also found that the babies that didn't have colic had more types of bacteria in their intestines. The presence of more bacteria may indicate that specific bacterial species (phylotypes) are beneficial to humans," Rhoads said.

Meats With Additives Harmful To Kidneys



Washington: (IANS) Uncooked meat products with food additives may contain high levels of phosphorus and potassium that find no place in food labels. This can make it difficult for people to limit these minerals that at high levels are harmful to kidney disease patients, according to a new study.

Dialysis patients must watch their intake of phosphate so that their blood phosphate levels do not rise, which may then cause premature death.

Kidney disease patients also must limit their intake of potassium, because high blood potassium levels can cause sudden death.

One growing source of dietary phosphorus and potassium is through "enhanced" fresh meat and poultry products. These foods are injected with a solution of water with sodium and potassium salts (particularly phosphates) as well as anti-oxidants and flavorings.

While ingesting phosphates and potassium can be dangerous for dialysis patients, there is no requirement that these ingredients be included in nutrition labels.There have also been no studies on the levels of phosphates and potassium contained in fresh meat and poultry products that have been "enhanced."

Richard Sherman and Ojas Mehta, from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, examined potassium and phosphate content in a variety of "enhanced" and additive-free meat and poultry products available in local supermarkets. They found that products that were labelled as "enhanced" had an average phosphate concentration that was 28 percent higher than additive-free products, with some products almost 100 percent higher.

Scientists Closer To Growing Replacement Bones

London: (IANS) Scientists have edged closer to growing replacement bones with stem cell technology. Molly Stevens, professor at Imperial College London said: "Our study brings us one step closer to developing materials that will have the highest chance of success when implanted into patients."

The effort is on to create bone-like materials, derived from stem cells, to implant into patients who have damaged or fractured bones, or who have had parts of diseased bones removed. The idea is that, eventually, these bone-like materials could be inserted into cavities so that real bone could meld with it and repair the bone. So far, scientists have found they can grow small 'nodules' of what appeared to be bone-like material in the lab from different types of bone cells and stem cells. All of these cell types are attracting considerable interest as promising candidates for future implants in people with clinical trials already underway.