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Special issue on Information Technology

IT is Uttarakhand's Growth Leader: CM

Chief Minister Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari has said that Information Technology is the Growth Leader in Uttarakhand.

Calling on the Chief Minister Mr. Simon Wang, Managing Director, Asia Pacific, DELL - world's leading computer manufacturing company - said that a technical team will be sent for a feasibility study for establishing DELL's facility in Uttarakhand, on 150 acres of land.

Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary, Industries & IT and Mr. Alok Kumar, MD, SIDCUL, were present on the occasion.



ITDA's facilitation program for the stakeholders, Petrovantage - A discussion on Petrol Retail Station as an Information Kiosk was held in Dehradun.

- According to Mr. Amit Gosain, Task Force Manager, ITDA, the Government of Uttarakhand, through its nodal agency ITDA, has embarked into major IT initiatives in the state where a common man will be able to access governmental and other services over the internet.
- A feasibility study of Establishing Internet Kiosk at Petrol Retail Stations was carried out by the **University of Petroleum & Energy Studies**. The survey was carried out in 30 retail outlets in Dehradun district.
- The findings of the study were quite encouraging. The Petrol Pump, Oil companies and the Bankers have shown their keen interest to collaborate with ITDA in establishing such Kiosks.

Central undertaking to up Uttarakhand connectivity



First converged network comprising voice, data, and video is in the offing in Uttarakhand. A grant of Rs 40 crore had been given by the **Department of Information and Technology, the Government of India**, to Uttarakhand in this regard. Billed as the **Uttarakhand State Wide Area Network (UASWAN)**, it will provide connectivity of 2 mega bytes through lease lines.

For this purpose, the government has roped in the **Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL)**, a central government undertaking, to lay the network.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between TCIL and the Uttarakhand government on enhancing connectivity in the state, in the pres-

ence of **Chief Secretary, Mr. M. Ramachandran**.

Uttarakhand, consisting of 13 districts, has been grouped into three geographical regions--the high mountain region, the mid-mountain region, and the Terai area. Our main aim is to connect Dehra Dun with all the 13 district headquarters. Thereafter, we will take the network to the block level, said **Mr. P Ganesh, Director (technical), TCIL**, having a turnover of Rs 500 crore.

The strategy is to create an aerial highway which defies the mountains and the distances, said **Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary, Industries & IT**. **Mr. Alok Kumar, Additional Secretary, Industries & IT** was also present.

SWAN (State Wide Area Network)

- The UA SWAN proposal put up to DIT, Govt. of India has been approved.
- The Total value of the project is Rs. 7078.31 lakhs with Rs.3963.51 lakhs as DIT Share and Rs. 3114.80 as state share has been sanctioned.
- The first installment of the DIT share is expected to be released soon.

We Will Either Find A Way Or Make One

IT advantage

* The State Government will provide free bandwidth up to 2 MBPS to all IT software companies / IT enabled services based companies, call centres, BPOs etc for 1 year

* 100% central excise exemption for 10 years

* 100% income tax exemption for first 5 years and 30% for next 5 years for the companies and 25% for others

* Capital investment subsidy @ 15% with a maximum of Rs.30 lacs (Rs. 3 million).

IT Infra Initiatives

* SIDCUL is setting up a state-of-the-art Software Technology Park on about 65 acres at Dehradun, the State Capital with Intelligent Buildings and Hi-tech Habitat Centre.

* SPTI Earth Station at Dehradun with connectivity upto 100 MBPS.

* Fibre Optic networks by Reliance Infocom, BSNL, VSNL etc.

* MoUs signed with Cisco Systems, Intel Corporation, IBM etc. for setting up of Research Academies.

Marching Ahead: e-Governance in Uttarakhand



e-Governance, which greatly targets facilitating citizen to avail various services at their door-steps, is the need of time. There are limited examples of successful e-Governance projects.

However, the efforts are on and various state governments in India have initiated variety of e-Governance projects.

Government of Uttarakhand (GoUA), coming-out with variety of projects, has also participated in this highly prioritized agenda of Government of India.

e-Governance in any state basically needs three things in place. In simple terms these are – A platform to share/ provide information, backend to respond/ process the queries/ requests, and a delivery mechanism.

However, in technical terms of the **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** these are State Portal, Application Software for various Departments and Community Service Centres/ Kiosks.

The GoUA is parallelly working on all these fronts. It has developed the State Portal

(www.uttara.in), building application software for more than seven departments and signing MoUs with various agencies to set-up CSCs/ CICs/ KSKs/ Sookna Kutirs in the state.

The systematic approach of the GoUA to attain the real objective of the e-Governance is detailed in this paper. This will help various stakeholders under-

stand the path that has been traced by the Department of IT, GoUA and the way that is still ahead to march further.

Development of the State Portal

Development of State Portal is not an easy task. It needs lot of thinking, and integration of various efforts. The same happened in case of Uttarakhand's State Portal (Uttara.in) as well.

Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee executed the Pro-Poor IT Initiatives Project funded by the **UNDP**.

Under this project Business Process Reengineering (BPR) was done for six departments (Social Welfare, Food and Civil Supply, Transport, Horticulture, Rural Development and Urban Development), Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) was done with citizens to identify their needs from a State Portal, and a pilot was launched in Nainital

District setting-up nineteen Sookna-Kutirs. The static content having information about 109 departments/ organizations have been up-loaded on this Portal. The Portal has been tested for its performance, and will be launched soon.

Updating the static content that is presently available at the Portal is a major challenge. However, different departments/ organizations will soon be given the administrative control for this purpose, and it will be their prime responsibility to validate the present content, update it, upload departmental/ organizational MIS etc.

The BPR studies done under the project set the basis for departmental computerization. It is worthy to say that extensive computerization has been done various departments, especially Social Welfare, Forest, Food and Civil Supplies, Transportation, Land Records, Collectorate/



Revenue, Urban Development and Education.

It also identified the need to develop and deploy application software for various departments, which has been taken-up as next step.

Operation Saksham flagged off

Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary Information Technology & Industries, Government of Uttarakhand, Government of Uttarakhand flagged off the programme to start the first batch by NIIT Limited at DAV PG college, in Dehradun. He also released the course material specially created for this program. Mr. Alok Kumar, Additional Secretary Information Technology, Government of Uttarakhand, was also present in the function.



Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, said that through Operation SAKSHAM, Government employees will become trained on the usage of computers and this will go a long way in making the e-Governance initiatives of the Government of Uttarakhand a success and having this training through NIIT who are now doing their training with many state governments in providing quality computer education and computer-aided education, will bring in their learning and best practices to the State and even in countries like China will ensure that the participants will receive quality training.

He also told the participants to take this course seriously, so that they can go back to their respective departments and can start using their skills effectively. He also indicated this step will enable the employees to take up the operations of the major e-Governance projects started by the state.

Speaking on this occasion Mr. Alok Kumar, Additional Secretary IT focused on increasing the productivity of the Government employees after

they get trained on the basic computer usage.

He also said that with the usage of technologies like email, unnecessary time that is taken in the moving of the papers within the office will be reduced a lot.

CMC has already stated training centers at Nainital, Rishikesh, Haldwani and Dehradun. Centre shall be opened at other district.

IT:The Ardh Kumbha Story

State's first major e-Governance initiative started with the Ardhakumbh Portal that was built during the Ardhakumbha-2002 (The every sixth-year event).

During Ardh Kumbha pilgrims and devotees from various parts of the country and abroad assemble in Haridwar to take the holy dip in Ganges.

They suffer due to lack of information about the stay and parking facilities, location of bus-stations and railway-station, timings of buses and rails, prayer timings in temples, places to visit around Haridwar, lost-and-

found. The Ardhakumbh Portal was built to facilitate pilgrims and devotees to get such information. Though this Portal was extensively praised by its user, the lost-and-found facility developed during the event come-out as the greatest service.

One can imagine the smile spread on the face of a lady who after losing her child in the gathering of lakhs saw his picture on the screen raised at various locations during the event.

She approached the policeman who took her to the Kiosk which floated the message about her child. When she saw her child playing in the Kiosk, she

overwhelmingly acclaimed – Computer is a nice equipment, it can even find a lost child.

Thus, it appeared necessary to enrich the content on this newer portal to facilitate greater clientele. Information about hotels, ashrams, dharamshalas, temples, sadhus, flora and fauna, ayurveda, yoga, Ganges, Hindu mythology etc. have been added on the Portal.

Today it has extensive information about Haridwar, Rishikesh and Kankhal, and has, therefore, emerged as prototype of the Tourist Portal of the state.

The Government of Uttarakhand in partnership with NIIT, Asia's largest IT trainer and CMC Limited has launched a major initiative to revolutionize use of technology/ computers in their day-to-day working in the state by providing them computer education under Operation "SAKSHAM".

According to Mr. Anupam Sharma, TFM, ITDA, as part of this initiative, NIIT will use its education delivery expertise to impart basic training on the usage of computers to about 55,000 employees of the Government of Uttarakhand who are spread across 13 districts.

Success of the Ardhakumbh Portal, which was event specific, opened the way to enrich it further putting more content/ information on it. It was, therefore, converted into the haridwaronline.com

However, as Haridwar is the "Hari-Ka-Dwar", there are many stories attached to the places and temples around Haridwar.

Moreover, with the wide spread of the Ayurveda and Yoga, Haridwar and Rishikesh have become places of special interest to foreign tourists.

Initiatives of the NIC

Land Records Computerization

State Revenue Department has assigned NIC the task of computerization of Land Records at Tehsil Level in 12 districts excluding Dehradun.

Land Records at Tehsil Level in all the 78 tehsils of 12 districts have been computerized. The data updation work of all the Khataunies are over in all the 78 tehsils and only computerized copies of Record of Right (ROR) are in circulations.

All manual process of maintaining Khataunies and issuances of RORs has been stopped in the state. 53 Tehsils Land Records Computer Centres are fully made operational and another 19 centers will start functioning very soon as all the necessary Hardware and infrastructure had already been ordered and supplied. Commissioning of Hardware etc will be completed shortly.

Software for automating the Mutation Workflow Process is also underway.

ITDA's Projects

Project Shikhar

This project of 3 years **Advance Diploma in Software Engineering (ADSE)** is continuing for the past 2.5 in 43 Degree Colleges and 17 Polytechnics. Total enrolments in the colleges have crossed 11,000. Students in the Shikhar Project are admitted in the semester wise system.

Hermitage Project

This building was acquired by **Kumaun University** after a long judicial process. The building is 100 odd years aged. Restoration of this ancient Heritage

Building is in process and is on the way to completion.

In this Heritage Building 5 Academies are proposed to be established (viz. **Microsoft Academy of Excellence, IBM Center of Excellence, D-Link / Sun Academy, HP Academy and Oracle Academy**).

In the initial phase, the order procurement, installation and establishment of Furniture, Computer, Networking, EPABX, Internet connectivity, etc. of two academies in the main building of Hermitage has been given to

HILTRON. The installation and establishment for the two academies will be done within 4 – 6 weeks. In the second phase, rest of the academies along with the Multipurpose Hall would be undertaken. Work for this building will be completed soon.

Operation "Saksham"

The training to 100 employees were taken up in month of March 2006 by **M/s CMC. M/S NIIT** is also ready with the center and course material to start its batch from April 2006.

Newer initiative of the ITDA/ Deptt. of IT

Work-Flow Automation of the Secretariat

A detailed presentation on the Digital Work Flow Automation system was made by the members of the Study Group on 4th March 2006, which was chaired by the Chief Secretary and attended by the Secretary (IT & IDD), Additional Secretary (SAD), representatives of NIC and a number of Under Secretaries and Section Officers of the Sachivalya. It was decided to have a detailed functional presentation of this **Integrated Work Automation System (IWAS)**. A delegations of the Sachivalya officials are proposed to be sent to Hyderabad.

Taiwan Computer Industry

Taking the cue from MAIT, dialogue with **India Taipei Investment Forum** has been started. Correspondence held between the **Secretary and Mr Vijay Gokhle**, the MEA person there. It is expected that the **Bio IT Park at Pantnagar** will get its share of IT investments from this fora. They are visiting India in May, and an invitation to them has

been extended to visit Uttaranchal.

Uttaranchal.IT@ Dehradun 2006

Organization of the Uttaranchal.IT@Dehradun 2006 in association with Wisitex Foundation-Mumbai, IIT-Roorkee, NISG-Hyderabad, NASS-COM and Computer Society of India as Knowledge partners has been initiated. The focus is on Employment Generation through IT with special focus on BPO sector. This is at NO COST to the Government. The event is planned for June 1-3, 2006 in Dehradun.

IT and Disability Seminar

This task is in the pipeline and is being done with the **Social Welfare Deptt, GoUA and the NIVH**. ITDA will fund this to the extent of Rs. 5 lakhs from the head of Seminars.

Support to IIT Roorkee for Cognizance-2006, Deptt. of Management Studies, IIT-R and IMS, Dehradun

ITDA participated as the Gold Sponsor for the **Technical Festival of IIT-Roorkee, Cognizance-2006**. An amount of Rs. 1.50 Lakhs have been released to **Department of Management Studies, IIT-R** to organize two programme for ITDA, one each on the Digital Inclusion and Supply Chain Management. Contribution of Rs. 30 thousand has been done to **Futurity Seminar** organized by the IMS, Dehradun on 8-9 April, 2006.

IT Policy

Follow-up discussions held with Intel Team on the issue related to the IT Policy of the State. It is expected that Intel will produce the improved draft of the IT Policy, based on the discussions of the Core Group on IT on 28th Feb 2006, by 5th April 2006. ITDA will circulate it to all the members of the Core Group on IT to further deliberate on it.

World Bank funded e-Governance Projects

Project Management Team

The backend team has been established and is reviewing SRS of all the projects. A PMT website has also been commissioned to being all the stake holders on the same page.

CDV-MPHS-PKI

The inception report has been submitted by the vendor and PMT. The evaluation of the same is in progress.

Agriculture Portal

Content collection work in this project is under active progress. Content validation and verification teams have been identified and are in process of verifying the collected content. Templates for information gathering on the departmental MIS have been released.

On receipt of the validated information from the department of agriculture the SRS will be published and sent to the department for its approval. The SRS submission and approval is likely to be achieved by the end of April 2006.

HRMS

At the Principal Secretary, Personnel level three departments – PWD, Horticulture, Women and Child Development – have been identified to cover under this project on pilot basis. Nodal officers from these departments have also been identified. The PSC meeting to review the inception report is meeting on 3rd April 2006.

E-Class

A high level workshop was held by the vendor to apprise the department of Education with the progress and the 'next steps'

on the 27th of March, 2006. The project is progressing with a satisfactory pace and is fore runner amongst all the e-governance projects.

Certain suggestions and observations evolved during the workshop and were put for approval of the project steering committee and the approval was granted for the next steps on the project. Content Requirement Specifications are likely to be published in the month of April, 2006.

Badri Kedar Portal

A meeting of the Principal Secretary (Tourism), Secretary (Planning) and Secretary (IT) is scheduled in near future for discussion on further course of action on the project.

However, various options for resolving the deadlock in this project are being examined as there is separate project with the Urban Development Department on the "Haridwaronline.com" portal which is to be run on a PPP model.

Social Welfare Project

Digitization of data is progressing and is targeted to be completed by 31st March 2006.

Urban Local Bodies Project

Project Inception Report has been validated by the Project Management Team. The SRS document is being reviewed by the PMU & PMT.



PWD Construction Management Project

An improved Inception Report submitted by the Consultant, after getting inputs from the PMU and PMT was sent to the Project Steering Committee of which Secretary, PWD is the Chairperson. Later SRS Document for each of the Sub-System was submitted by the Consultant. Consultant and the PMT had various meetings with the officials of the PWD to get their feedback on this document. After the completion of this hectic exercise, in which participation and contribution of the PWD officials was praiseworthy, the final draft of the SRS was submitted by the Consultant to the PMU/ ITDA.

PSC for the Project has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, PWD and Co-Chairmanship of the Secretary, IT. First meeting of the PSC held on 8th March was quite successful and helped the Project to move further.

Teacher Student Portal

A high level work shop for this project was held on the 28th of March, 2006. Currently the gap analysis is in progress. The SRS of this project will be reviewed during the month of April 2006.

Computerization of Transport Sector Implementation of Vahan Software

Online work for Registration, Fitness, fees collection Tax collection, Permit and Enforcement is successfully running for the last three years through VAHAN software, developed by NIC.

Sarathi Software for Driving Licenses:

Sarathi software deals with the issues of Driving Licenses. With mutual discussions of NIC and Transport Department, customization of Sarathi software has been started.

Soon after the software fits in the requirements of the Uttaranchal State, it would be implemented at the RTO Dehradun as pilot.

Advantage UA

- 25000 IT manpower roll out per annum by 2008 including MCA's, networking professionals and fresh graduates

- 9000 technical graduates from the 11 Industrial Training Institutes (ITI's)

- 1.0 lakh graduates roll out per annum from the 51 Degree colleges & 5 Universities in the State

- A literacy level of 73%, well above the national average of 65%

- 40 national level institutions in the hinterland like IIT Roorkee, Pant Nagar Agricultural University, Forest Research Institute, National Defence Academy, Naval Headquarters, CBRI etc. – A boon for Educational Content Development, GIS applications,

- IT Companies would have comparatively low attrition rate leading to lower employee training and recruitment costs.

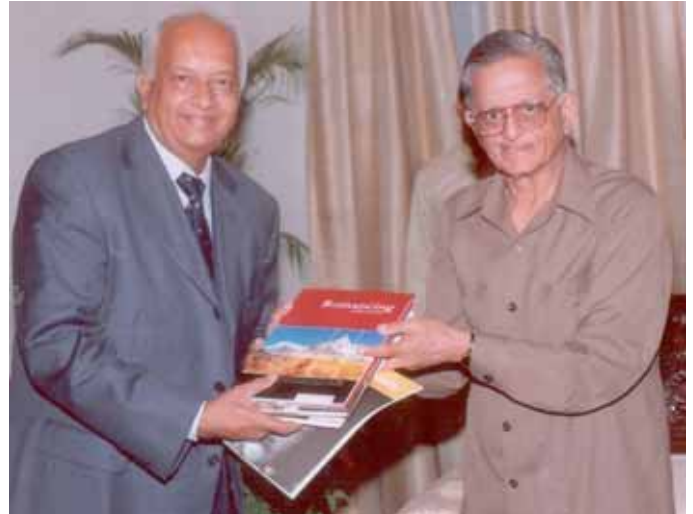
- Lower transportation and training costs for IT companies.

Mumbai's Industries Association visits Uttaranchal

A delegation of Indian Merchant Chamber, Mumbai called upon Governor, Mr. Sudarshan Agarwal and Chief Minister Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari.

Mr. Dinesh T Parikh, Chairman, Thane-Belapur Industries Association expressed his consent to establish industries in Uttaranchal.

Chief Secretary, Mr. M. Ramachandran and Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary, Industries & IT were present on the occasion.



\$20 m unit in Haridwar

Kirby announces expansion plans

Kirby Building Systems India Ltd, a firm that provides pre-engineered steel building solutions, has announced the setting up of a state-of-the-art production plant in Haridwar, Uttaranchal, with an investment of \$20 million.

Uttaranchal Chief Minister, Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari, inaugurated the plant on April 6.

The plant will produce 60,000 tonnes of pre-engineered steel

building (PEB) structures.

It is expected to create direct employment for more than 500 people and indirect employment to 5,000, said Managing Director and CEO, Kirby India, Mr. V. R. Rajan.

Mr. Marwan J. Karadsheh and Mr. Omar Kutayba Alghanim, CEO Alghanim Industries, were present.



With the new plant, Kirby's total capacity will increase to 1.35 lakh tonnes a year taking into account the capacity of its plant (75,000 tonnes) in Medak, Andhra Pradesh, built with an investment of \$30 million.

100 % EoU Units under STPI Dehradun



1. Himalayan Info Services

Mr. Avinash Saxena
20-A, Teg Bahadur Road,
Dehradun. 2674198,
2675136, 9897212791
Data processing

2. Call Shift BPO (P) Ltd.

Mr. Jai Kumar (M.D.),
5, Sirmour Marg, Kaulagarh
Road, Dehradun
2759035
jai@callshift.com
Call Centre / BPO

3. Himalaya Calls

Mr. Shobhit Jain
51/5, Rajpur Road, Dehradun
9897229708, 2651993
shobhit@shimlets.org
Call Centre / BPO

4. BMB Softech

Mr. Ashutosh Agarwal
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5. IMSI India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Tarit Mohan
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Software Development

6. M/s Resonance Technology Network

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8. M/s Key West Business Systems P. Ltd.

Ms. Anju Chandana
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hradun. 0135-26219560,
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9. M/s Asian Outsourcing Solutions

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0135-5533386, 9837028508
Software Development

10. M/s Techinfiniti Infosolutions P. Ltd.

Mr. Amit Mittal
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Road, Dehradun.
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Call Centre / BPO

11. M/s Krishna BPO Services

Ms. Sonia Kalra
81, Dehradun Road,
Rishikesh.
0135-2438160,
9412318936
Call Centre / BPO

12. M/s Astra Business Service P. Ltd.

Mr. Mukul C. Agarwal
Doon Express Business Park,
Building-1, Subash Nagar,
Opp. Transport Nagar,
Dehradun.
011-9810112652,
9810092430
Call Centre / BPO

Advantage UA

• Close proximity to the national capital – linked by road, rail & air

• Unmatched Recreational Potential – Himalayas with snow clad peaks, national & wild life parks/sanctuaries, famous hill/ski resorts, diverse adventure sports, pilgrim circuits etc.

• Concentration of high quality educational institutions, particularly in Dehradun (Doon School), Nainital, Roorkee and Pantnagar

• Peaceful and pollution free environment

• Good Urban Infrastructure with high quality of life

• Salubrious climate

• Cosmopolitan culture

• Good Law & Order situation

• Rich in power resources- availability of assured, uninterrupted, quality power

Voltas plans new plant in Uttaranchal

Voltas Ltd, diversified engineering and services company, will set up a new manufacturing unit in a phased manner in Uttaranchal in June this year.

The new plant will cater to the production of cooling appliances (CABD) and assembly of packed units, ductable splits and chiller packages (ACBD). The first phase of the project is expected to be operational by June 2006.

Voltas is part of the Tata Group which holds a 27.6 per cent in the company.

A lot of companies are making a beeline to Uttaranchal since the hilly state offers a host of tax incentives to new investment.

Courtesy: UNI

Riddhi Siddhi-Roquette collaboration

Riddhi Siddhi Gluco Biols Ltd has entered into a long term technical co-operation agreement with **Roquette Freres** to introduce value added products to cater to specific needs of food, pharmaceutical, textile and paper industries.

"This association will see India emerge as a global hub for exports in the starch and starch derivatives market and will propel our export order books and we are confident of achieving more than our projected targets," **Riddhi Siddhi managing director Mr. Ganpatraj Chowdhary** said.

Roquette would provide transfer of know-how for product and process upgradation, technology for new products to be intro-

duced by the company and is recognized as one of world's most diversified starch and starch derivatives businesses.

The company has planned a capital expenditure of over Rs 120 crore in financial year 2007, to upgrade its existing plants and invest in a new project for maize processing complex coming up in **Pant Nagar, Uttaranchal, Riddhi Siddhi** informed the **Bombay Stock Exchange**.

The completion of this project would double its sales revenue and increase profits, it said adding the new plant would have the capacity to process 1,65,000



tonnes of maize per annum. The project at Uttaranchal would cater to the domestic requirements as well the international markets. Riddhi Siddhi manufacturers of liquid glucose, maize starch, corn gluten, and other corn based ingredients.

ING Vysya Life takes lead in the industry with 44 cooperative bank tie-ups

In a quiet but industry leading move, **ING Vysya Life** has stolen the march in cooperative bank tie-ups in the life insurance industry with 44 banks signed up as of 31 st March 2006. **ING Vysya Life** has tied up with major bank networks in Gujarat, Himachal, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and **Uttaranchal**.

Large tie-ups also exist with **Nainital Bank in Uttaranchal**. The 44 banks are spread over 9 states and have a combined customer base of 10 million customers with 900+ branches. The 44 tie-ups comprise of 1 scheduled commercial bank, 32 UCBs (Urban Cooperative Banks) and 11 DCCBs (District Commercial Cooperative Banks)

Mr. Kshitij Jain, Director Sales, ING Vysya Life said, we

have focused on creating a compelling business value proposition for the cooperative bank segment that allows them to enhance their financial services offering to their customers as well as helps them to earn fee income.

We have a specialized package that combines simple packaged products, simplified underwriting and application processing, training of branch staff and marketing support activities to help the banks get a running start and benefit from this opportunity, he added.

Mr. M R Rao, Head of Alternate Channels, ING Vysya Life said, we believe that the trust and customer relationship that the cooperative banks enjoy with their clients is a strong and valuable asset. We have a team of dedicated relationship manag-

ers that provide the support from our side to the bank management. Our simplified products and processes, especially the **Safal Jeevan** endowment plan, are very well suited to cater to the needs of the coop banks' customers.

We now have a proven model and demonstrated success and this has helped us garner the largest number of such tie-ups in the industry, he added.

Apart from the coop banks **ING Vysya Life** has bank assurance tie ups with **ING Vysya Bank** and **Bharat Overseas Bank**. Alternate channels also include corporate agents in addition to coop banks. The tie ups are all referral agreements.

Source: Hanmer & Partners Communications Pvt. Ltd.

We will promote Handloom & Handicrafts industries: CM



Chief Minister Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari has assured a delegation of Tribal areas of Niti & Mana that handloom and handicrafts industries will be promoted in Uttarakhand, besides announcing package for them.

Alghanim Group bullish on India

Alghanim Group, the Kuwait-based \$1-billion business conglomerate, is bullish on the opportunities in the Indian market. It is now evaluating plans to expand in the Indian market, according to its **Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Omar Kutayba Alghanim**.

The group has interests in automotive, manufacturing, retail, financial services, consumer products and others world over. It is into the manufacture of pre-engineered steel building (PEB) solutions and thermal and acoustic solutions in the country.

"We may either set up greenfield manufacturing units or weigh the option of acquiring the existing facilities, Mr. Alghanim said.

Alghanim Group, which employs over 4,000 people in 34 different countries around the world, has 500 people working for its Rs 300-crore Indian company - Kirby Building Systems India - at Hyderabad.

Expansion plans

Riding high on the booming infrastructure segment in the country, Kirby India, which is into

PEB solutions, has embarked upon an expansion involving an investment of \$20 million. The company is aiming at a turnover of Rs 500 crore and double the workforce to 1,000 by the current fiscal-end.

According to the **Kirby India Chairman, Mr. Marwan J. Karadsheh**, the new plant is coming up at Haridwar in Uttarakhand with a capacity of 60,000 tonnes, would take off shortly.

Courtesy: UNI

Suprajit Engineering to set up plant in Uttarakhand

Suprajit Engineering Ltd will set up a cable plant in Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, that will go into production before March 31, 2007. Land for the plant has been already acquired, Suprajit Engineering informed the **Bombay Stock Exchange**.

The company has also received an initial order for supply of cables to **North America by Lear Corporation**, it said. The commercial production at CTP Suprajit Automotive Pvt Ltd, a 100 per cent Export Oriented Unit, has started. The sales for the year 2005-06 has crossed Rs

136 crore as against Rs 106 crore last year, an increase of 28 per cent. It dispatched 4.1 crore cables for the year 2005-06 as against 3.2 crore for the previous year. The company's share was trading at Rs 187.00 up 0.08 per cent at the BSE.

Vishal Exports signs agreement with Govt. of Uttarakhand

Vishal Exports Overseas Ltd has signed a Rs 20.2 crore project development agreement with the **Government of Uttarakhand** for carrying out detailed surveys for the **Nandakini- III Hydra Power project (5.6 MW)**. Located on the **Nandakini river** it would comprise of two units of 2.8 MW capacity each and would be made operational in four years, the company informed the **Bombay Stock Exchange**.

The project has been allotted for 40 years. After carrying out the studies and satisfying the techno economic viability, a separate implementation agreement would be signed for the implementation and operation of the project.

The company also has presence in wind farm activities .

IT Park



Total area : 65 acres

Saleable area : 40 acres

Built-up space : 40 lac sq feet

Roads, drainage, sewerage, water supply, provision for internal electrical and telecon/data connectivity in place



Doon Cyber Tower (4.0 lac sq ft built-up area) to commence construction in March, 2006; completion target Jan-March, 2007.

Uttaranchal plans gas-fired power plant

The Uttaranchal government is planning to set up its first gas-fired power project in the state, and is in talks with **Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL)** for bringing in liquefied natural gas, which will be used as fuel. Going by industry benchmarks, the 300-Mw project will cost around Rs 1,000 crore.

"Apart from this, a one-time fixed cost of the pipeline connection will be Rs 400 crore," said **Mr. Alok Kumar, Managing Director, State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttaranchal (SIDCUL)**, the apex institution that facilitates fresh investments in the state. The proposed gas-based power project would be the first of its kind in the state, where, currently, only hydel power projects operate, generating around 1,125 Mw.

"This is an environmentally sen-

sitive state, which has stayed away from generating power from fossil fuels. But with so many industrial projects taking shape, we need a backup power-generating mechanism, and not fully depend on hydel power, which can fail due to reasons beyond our control," Kumar said. GAIL had, during initial talks with state officials, indicated that a minimum purchase of one million standard cubic meters of gas would make the laying of the pipeline feasible. "That is a volume we can safely assure," Mr. Kumar added.

The plan is to draw the pipeline infrastructure from Aonla, near Bareilly (in Uttar Pradesh) to Pantnagar in Uttaranchal. "From Pantnagar, we can draw the lines to Sitarganj in the East and Kashipur in the West," Kumar said.

Uttaranchal state, according to **Chief Secretary Mr. M**

Ramachandran, would be a major power-generating state in the country, with a total commissioned capacity of 15,000 Mw by 2009-10.

Mr. Ramachandran said the state has set a target of providing all villages, which number between 14 to 15000, with power supply by 2007 and ensuring power supply reaches every household in the state by 2009.

Power-generating projects closer to commissioning in the state include the 1,000-Mw Tehri project, handled by **Tehri Hydro Development Corporation** and a 240-Mw project set up by **National Hydro Power Corporation**. While these projects will be completed in the next two months, a 340 Mw project at Maneri Bhali will be ready by October 2006.

Corporate Social Responsibility: CII launches HIV/AIDS Workplace Intervention Programme

HIV/AIDS epidemic is spreading at a fast pace from pockets of high prevalence to general population. The HIV virus targets a workforce, which is in its economic prime.

In the war against HIV/AIDS, private sector has begun to realize the dangers that the pandemic can cause to economies. Against this backdrop, CII Uttaranchal State Council jointly with USACS has launched HIV/AIDS Workplace Intervention Programme focusing on sensitizing the workforce on HIV/AIDS.

The programme will share information on treatment available to make HIV positive live longer and healthier lives, spread of HIV virus, preventive measures, promotion of condom usage, and

supporting people affected by the virus.

The prime objectives of the programme are to increase awareness amongst the employees and their families and to work towards reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with AIDS.

The first programme was held at the Oberai Motors, Majra. Dr Mamgain gave a presentation on occurrence and prevention of HIV/AIDS infection.

Attitudinal change is the need of the hour in fighting AIDS in today's scenario said **Dr. A P Mamgain, Additional Project Director, USACS** at the HIV awareness workshop organized jointly by the **Confederation of**

Indian Industry (CII) and Uttaranchal State AIDS Control Society (USACS) at the **Oberai Motors**, dealers of **TATA** motor cars, Majra.

He further stated that people have knowledge on the subject but what is also required is a mindset change and the better acceptance of the various preventive measures.

Thanking the organizers **Mr. Rakesh Oberai, Managing Director, Oberai Motors** said that the programme was very informative, thought provoking and will help in achieving the goals. A series of such awareness workshops will be organized at the premises of CII member companies.

CII's new Chairman, Deputy Chairman



Mr Adesh Gupta and Mr. Deep Kapuria have been elected as **Chairman and**

Deputy Chairman respectively of the **Confederation of Indian Industry (Northern Region)** for the year 2006-07. The newly elected Council of CII (NR) met at the close of the 32nd Annual Session in New Delhi.

Mr Adesh Gupta is **Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Group**. The Group's core business is design, manufacture, marketing and retailing of footwear in the domestic and overseas market. The group also has business interests in ceramics, chemicals and automotive components.

Mr Gupta has been associated with CII and has served at different capacities for a long time. He was Deputy Chairman of CII (Northern Region) last year and Chairman, Haryana State Council in 2001-2002. During this stint as Chairman SME Sub-Committee, CII Northern Region, he developed and innovated the concept of Cluster Model for enhancing competitiveness of SMEs in the

region. Started with 14 companies in Mohali (Punjab) the cluster approach provided advisory services in the field of Energy Management, Total Quality Management and Total Cost Management. The same model is being replicated in other states of the region, as well as around the country.

A Mechanical Engineer, Mr Gupta is a recipient of the **IMM Top CEO of the Year Award (2002)** and the prestigious Haryana Ratna Award in 2004. He is also on the advisory board of various charitable organizations like **Diya Foundation, DPR Foundation, All India Vaish Federation** etc and his organization has, under corporate social responsibility, adopted village Pingli for its social and economic upliftment. He is also the Executive Member of **Polyurethane Association of India**.



Mr Deep Kapuria is Chairman and Managing Director of Hi-Tech Gears Ltd. The Company

is one among the leading manufacturers of Auto components in

India, supplying to leading OEMs in India as well as abroad. The company also has to its credit integrated management systems including ISO TS 16949, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 to manufacture transmission gears and precision components.

Mr Kapuria is currently the **Chairman of the CII National Council for SME's** and also is a member of CII National Council. For 2005-06, he has been nominated by CII as Chairman of the National Committee on SME Development and member of CII National Council.

He was also the Chairman of the Delhi chapter of Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI) of India in 1993. He led the Auto Components Manufacturers' Association (ACMA) Northern Region for four years as Chairman and has recently completed the term as the National President of ACMA. He is presently the **Chairman of 'Exports & Indian Brand Building' Committee of ACMA**.

An Engineering graduate from **BITS, Pilani** and **Alumni of Harvard Business School, USA**, Mr Kapuria has undergone specialized training in Gear Technology in USA, Germany, Japan & Austria.

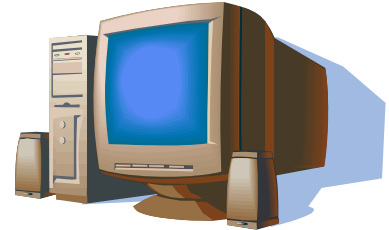
Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh, it said.

Radha Madhav Corporation, a Daman-based manufacturing company is engaged in primary and secondary packaging.

Courtesy: PTI

Humour

Life before Computers



Memory was something you lost with age.

An application was for employment.

A program was a TV show.

A cursor used profanity.

A keyboard was a piano.

A web was a spider's home.

A virus was the flu.

A CD was a banking termlogy.

A hard drive was a long trip on the road.

A mouse pad was where a mouse lived.

Radha Madhav to set up unit in Uttaranchal

Radha Madhav Corporation Ltd (RMCL) will invest Rs 60 crore for setting up a manufacturing facility in Uttaranchal complying to international quality standards.

The company plans to start commercial production before March 31, 2007.

The unit would manufacture approximately 18,000 tonnes of film per annum of Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) calendared sheets used for blister packaging in pharmaceuticals industry, it said.

The company targets to sell pharmaceutical packaging material to approximately 800 pharmaceutical companies in

Minister for Tech. Education Mr. Hira Singh Bist inaugurates ITDA exhibition at Dehradun.



In view of an extensive marketing strategy during the summer season, UHHDC will showcase the handloom and handicraft products of Uttarakhand at Shilp Gram located on Dehradun-Mussoorie bye pass for the visitors.



SSI Minister Mr. Govind Singh Kunjwal inaugurates UHHDC exhibition at Shilp Gram



We are on the Web: www.itdaua.org, www.sidcul.com, <http://ua.nic.in>, <http://gov.ua.nic.in/it>

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