

Uttaranchal invites handicrafts industry



The Government of Uttaranchal is offering several incentives to the industries for setting up of their units in Uttaranchal. Broadly, the **Concessional Industrial Package** includes 100% IT exemption for last 5 yrs & 30% thereafter; 100% Excise duty exemption for 10 years; Capital Invest subsidy (15% with cap of Rs 30 lakh); Concessional CST @1% for 5 years; Exemption from Entry Tax on plant & machinery; Stamp duty concession on Specialized Commodity Parks, etc.

State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttaranchal Limited (SIDCUL) has extended an invitation to the **handicrafts industry** to set up their units in Growth Centre, Kotdwar, Pauri, Uttaranchal. Mr. Atul Kumar, General Manager (Projects), informed that the industrial plots are available for the thrust industries. Interested parties may kindly contact him (09412992603, atulku-mar@sidcul.com). Industrial Policy and the list of thrust industries are available on www.sidcul.com



Govt. of Uttaranchal

On Record

A Publication of Industrial Development Department

Astra expands business in Uttaranchal

Chief Minister Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari has said that by establishing the third and the largest office of **Astra Business Services (ABS)** in Dehradun, in India, the company has addressed the needs of Uttaranchal, as there will be enough job opportunities for the youth.

Speaking at the Inauguration ceremony of **Astra Business Services**, located at **IMSI's Doon Business Centre**, here on February 1, 2006, the Chief Minister said that Uttaranchal's IT Vision is to harness the potential of IT for e-governance, providing communication link to inaccessible areas and promote Information Technology for employment generation.

He said that Uttaranchal is naturally endowed and has pre-requisites for developing as a preferred destination for Information Technology & IT enabled services. The vision of ABS and Govt. of Uttaranchal will bring socio-economy



revolution, through IT.

Mr. M Ramachandran, Chief Secretary said that the ABS facility will send a positive message to Information Technology industry. Our youth is talented. With the availability of English speaking youth in Uttaranchal, the state will prove the world of its excellence in IT and sustaining growth of Uttaranchal.

Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary Industries & Information Technology said that the challenge is to be the best

globally. IT and IT related services has been accorded Industry status in Uttaranchal and we offers high speed connectivity. There are 22 existing and 10 proposed STP units in Uttaranchal. STPI earth station has been established in Uttaranchal and there are reliable connectivity available through BSNL & private players. The Government is providing free bandwidth upto 2 mbps to IT software companies, IT enabled service based companies, call centres, BPOs for one year. *(Contd. on pg.)*

Steps to boost weaving in Uttaranchal

In a move to boost the sale of local handloom products, the Uttaranchal government is mulling the idea of introducing new schemes and will organize expos in Dehra Dun and other parts of the country. For encouraging weavers, the government has also sanctioned Rs 246.09 lakh as assistance to revive the woolen and cotton products sector.

In this regard, the government has also set up **Uttaranchal Handloom and Handicraft Development Council**, which will work as a nodal agency to boost various artisan products. In addition to this, the state government has also

modernized its **handicrafts design centre** at **Kashipur** in Kumaon region with the state-of-the-art machineries and computers. New designs were also being made available to artisans with the help of computers, **Mr. SC Nautiyal, CEO, UHHDC** said. He said that 500 weavers had been benefited so far under the new schemes.

The government is trying to make available simple loans to small weavers from various cooperative banks and also set up a federation of artisans. Already, 26 weavers' federations have been set up in the state. Special emphasis is being given to silk products

in the state. The government is also setting up new looms to help local weavers to design new silk saris. Special expos will also be organized in Dehra Dun and other parts of the country.

A handicrafts expo, which concluded on January 4, 2006, at Parade Ground, Dehradun, generated immense interest with weavers doing a brisk business. A business of Rs 1 crore had already been done in the expo. For the benefit of artisans, the government is also mulling the idea of organizing special expos in other states.

Courtesy: Business Standard

"The addition of this facility and personnel constitutes of very significant



increase in Astra's capability to serve its U.S. clients, said Mr. Feroze Waheed, President & Chief Executive Officer of Astra Business Services.

The expansion in Uttaranchal reflects our very positive experience dealing with the government officials and the college graduates from Dehradun that we've been hiring for the past three months.

Our Dehradun trainees have shown the type of commitment, dedication, and hard work that we need to take us to the next level.

We continue to be impressed with the forward looking policies of the Uttaranchal government under the very capable leadership of the Chief Minister, Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari.

Astra expands business . . .

Astra is expanding with market demand as several new client relationships already in place will absorb a good deal of the new capacity of the expanded operations, said **Mr. Peter Wendell, Astra's Chairman and Managing Director of Sierra Ventures.**

The recent successful Series B venture financing round has set the stage for Astra's growth. We are committed to supporting India-based debt collection best practices that assist American companies, he added.

Astra's expansion plans in Uttaranchal would greatly benefit the community, while providing Astra access to a pool of highly educated workforce in Dehradun.

The Company plans to accelerate its hiring in Dehradun immediately following the inauguration of its new facility, noted **Mr. KP Balaraj, Managing Director and co-founder of WestBridge**, who is located in Bangalore.

WestBridge Capital Partners, doubled its original investment in Astra in the Series B venture financing and continues to be the largest investor in the Company.

Mr. Mukul Agarwal, Chief Financial Officer, ABS said that Astra is the first MNC to set up a major call center operation in Uttaranchal. The new Dehradun location is the largest of the three call centers operated by Astra in India. Astra plans to hire over 500 account executives to serve its U.S. customers from Dehradun. The facility also

includes executive offices, training facilities and state of the art IT infrastructure.

He said that Astra Business Services has two offices in Gurgaon. The Dehradun is the third office of ABS in India which will be the largest centre of the company. ABS, Dehradun will employ 550 persons. It has invested One Million US Dollars in Capital Infrastructure and machinery.

ABS has an equity of 14.5 Million US Dollars. ABS largest equity partners are West Bridge Capital Partners and Sierra Ventures. ABS promotes equal employment opportunities to both the genders, and it also is an employer to educated and able physically challenged youth. ABS will create indirect employment opportunities in service sector, he added.

Earlier, **Mr. Sudhir Jain, President, IMSI India Pvt. Ltd.** has said that home is where heart is and that is why we started our venture in Dehradun. The government has given us a warm welcome.

Present on the occasion were local **MLA Mr. Dinesh Aggarwal, Chairman, Mandi Parishad; Mr. Tarit Mohan, GM, IMSI India Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Sanjoo Sharma, Director, IT; Ms. Joyeeta Nandi, HR and Ms. Nidhi Jain, HR from Astra Business Services** and other dignitaries.

WestBridge Capital Partners is a Mauritius-based leading U.S.-India focused venture capital fund with approximately \$350 million under management.

The fund focuses primarily on cross-border U.S.-India technology and services companies that are targeting global markets.

It invests in both Information Technology and Outsourced Services companies across all stages. WestBridge's investors include leading institutions and entrepreneurs across the globe. WestBridge has offices in Silicon Valley & Bangalore.

Sierra Ventures, founded in 1982, is a privately held venture capital firm focused on investments across all areas of the Information Technology sector from semiconductors to enterprise software.

Sierra Ventures has managed eight venture capital partnerships and currently has more than \$1 billion of capital under management.

Sierra has been an active early-stage investor in a broad array of successful companies including Active Software (acquired by WebMethods), AmeriGroup (NYSE-AGP), Centex (acquired by WorldCom), ConvergeNet (acquired by Dell), FatBrain (acquired by Barnes & Noble), FrontBridge (acquired by Microsoft), Healthon (merged with WebMD), Interact Commerce (acquired by Sage), Intuit (NASDAQ-INTU), Micromuse (NASDAQ-MUSE), On Assignment (NASDAQ-ASGN), OnLink (acquired by Siebel), Quinta (acquired by Seagate), StrataCom (acquired by Cisco), and others.

Courtesy: Sanket Communications

Yes Bank comes out with strategy for Uttarakhand

Yes Bank, a new private bank in India, is very "bullish" on the developmental prospects in Uttarakhand.

The bank has come out with an investment strategy report titled "Uttarakhand: The next destination" for the state, in partnership with PHDCCI. The report was recently released by Chief Minister Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari here, bank officials said.



The report highlighted key growth sectors in Uttarakhand that should be harnessed for sustainable and commercial socio economic development of the state.

It also details implementable strategies for sustained and continuous investment in the state with a focus on agri business, tourism, information technology, biotechnology and infrastructure.

According to Mr. Tushar Pandey, regional head, strategic business development and state government, Yes Bank, the challenge in the case of Uttarakhand is to harness untapped potential of the identified sectors and create adequate forward and backward linkages to ensure citizen empowerment and sustainable economic development.

Furthermore, substantial attention needs to be paid to the development of basic infrastructural facilities to ensure rapid industrial growth in the state as this is one of the major impediments to the state's progress in terms of realizing the full potential it has owing to its topographical features.

Uttarakhand's potential in agri business, tourism and hydro power is already well known. Further development of the state can be catalyzed by undertaking thematic project development based on the principles of public-private partnership, especially in the new sectors including infrastructure, IT, biotechnology besides hydro power, that should be tapped into for the development of the state, the bank said in its report.

Efforts to give push to developments in the state needed to be catalyzed by quality investments with direct involvement of local stakeholders, it said.

Mr. Pandey said Yes Bank was fully committed, and planned extensive intervention in the state through its knowledge- banking approach.

As the service sector was fast becoming the key area for business activity, marketing initiatives for promotion of tourism was urgently required.

Other than pilgrimage tourism, adventure, eco-wildlife, leisure and cultural tourism

also needed to be promoted. Newer tourist destinations were needed to be identified and developed, keeping in mind the requirements of domestic and international tourist, it said.

The report also highlights that whereas Uttarakhand is a predominantly an agricultural state with approximately 70 per cent population directly employed in agriculture and allied activities, branding of agri produce would be the key to capitalizing in the international market. Introduction of new and high valued crops should also be urgently done.

It also highlights the need for a concerted action towards harnessing the biotechnology potential of the state.

The government has earmarked and committed a 1000 acre campus in the city of Pantnagar as its epicenter for a Biotech Park.

The report points out that IT has tremendous potential in three critical areas in Uttarakhand.

Tata Motors eyes Uttarakhand

Auto giant Tata Motors is holding talks with the Uttarakhand government to set up a facility in the state, with a top team of the company touring the Udhampur area.

The team members of the company, headed by Managing Director Mr. Ravi Kant, visited the upcoming industrial estates in Udhampur and held talks with top state government officials and Chief Minister Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari.

Tata Motors would also like to set up a facility in Uttarakhand to produce the dream Rs one lakh car.

Top officials of the State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand (SIDCUL) confirmed talks were on with Tata Motors for the car-manufacturing facility in the state.

Significantly, Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) last month also evinced interest in setting up a manufacturing facility in Uttarakhand, in addition to its Haridwar unit.

Industries allotted plots in IIE Haridwar (January 2006)



Fleet Gaskets Company, Advance Panels & Switchgears (P) Ltd., Krishna Enterprises, Pankaj Industries, Bausch & Lomb Eyecare (India) Pvt. Ltd., Poly Medicure Ltd., Wren Bio-Tech., Vijaya Mercantile Ltd., Safeguard Industries, Excel Pack Ltd., Ganpat Rai Pawan Kumar, Arti Arora, Weld-Ex Electrodes (P) Ltd., Pranik Ayurveda Pvt. Ltd., Rahul Pandey, R V Containers, Aman Sales India, Nova Electronics, Rajendra Marketing, Dynasty India, Akum Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gitanshi Ploychem Pvt. Ltd., and Pragati Electrocom Pvt. Ltd.

Greenply plans Uttaranchal facility

Greenply Industries Limited is set to close this fiscal with a turnover of Rs 300 crore. The plywood manufacturer, which wants to position itself as an interior infrastructure company, plans to concentrate on value-added products to enter the mid-market segment. For this, a new manufacturing unit will be set up in Uttaranchal.

"The mid-market segment in the plywood industry is growing at the fastest rate and accounts for 40-45 per cent of the total plywood business

in the country," said Mr. Saurabh Mittal, joint managing director, Greenply Industries.

The new unit will be Greenply's fourth manufacturing facility, the existing units are located in Bengal, Nagaland and Rajasthan (for particle board lamination).

"The manufacturing unit in Uttaranchal will be set up at an estimated cost of Rs 80 crore, which will be funded by a debt and equity mix," Mr.

Mittal elaborated.

The industry comprising plywood, decorative veneers, laminates, particle boards and medium density fibre (MDF) boards is estimated to be worth Rs 9000 crore. Out of this, the plywood and decorative veneers market accounts for Rs 6000 crore, while the laminates market range between Rs 1500 and Rs 2000 crore. The particle board market is also estimated at Rs 1500-2000 crore.

Liberty to invest Rs 20 cr in Uttaranchal

Liberty Shoes Ltd. said that it would invest Rs 20 crore for setting up new footwear manufacturing facilities at Uttaranchal.

The board of directors has approved the setting up of

footwear manufacturing facilities at Uttaranchal with capacity to manufacture 12 lakh pairs per annum, the company informed the BSE.

The board has also approved the setting up of company's

ancillary units for manufacturing of shoe components and shoe accessories.

The company will also avail the additional working capital limit sanctioned by the Corporation Bank, it added.

RMCL to set up pharma packaging unit

Radha Madhav Corporation Limited (RMCL) will initiate another project in Uttaranchal to penetrate pharmaceutical packaging segment. The Uttaranchal plant will manufacture 24,000 metric tones of calendared PVC films/sheets annually.

RMCL managing director & CEO, Mr. Mitesh Agrawal said, "North India accounts for 65% production of the Rs. 450bn pharma industry in India and 80 per cent of the formulations market, so the new project is a strategic step

in our growth plans." The estimated cost of the project is slated to be Rs600mn, of which Rs500mn will be used to procure plant and machinery.

Explaining the reason for choosing Uttaranchal to expand its base, Mr. Agrawal said, "Besides favourable government policies; a 100% excise exemption for ten years, 100% income tax for five years and 30% for the next five years and proximity to pharmaceutical industries are an added advantage."

Besides the company has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding or MoU with a Russian firm to supply approximately 150 MT of films per month for next three years. The contract is valued at approximately Rs 400mn. It has also tied up with Italy based Tce Srl, for technical collaboration.

The company will be holding a Board of Directors meeting on February 14th and seek approval for the new Uttaranchal project.

Workshop on project formulation for DIC officials



The **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship** has designed Workshop on Project Formulation and Appraisal for **DIC Officials**. The major objectives of the workshop is to upgrade skills and knowledge of participants on entrepreneurship. To equip the personal with appropriate skill in identifying and selecting projects; to acquaint the personnel with the basic steps in formulation of micro projects; and to familiarize the personnel with the appraisal aspects of Micro enterprises etc.

The duration of the workshop was one weeks from 30 Jan-3 Feb,2006.

The Workshop was formally inaugurated by **Chief Secretary, Mr. M. Ramchandran**, who in his speech, stressed the need and importance of entrepreneurship in the region.

He lauded the efforts of Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, regional office. He also interacted with the participants.

Mr. K. Ahmed, Director, IIE, welcomed the guests and highlighted the objectives of the programme.

Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary, Industrial Development, congratulated IIE for their efforts to promote entrepreneurship in Uttaranchal. He also said that training is important for everyone to upgrade knowledge and skills.

At the end of the function; all the participants gave their introduction and expressed their views. Altogether, twenty three participants participated in the programme.

Dr. Poonam Sinha, Head, Regional Office, IIE gave vote of thanks.

There has been a great deal of emphasis on developing entrepreneurship in the country to promote first generation entrepreneurs. Realizing the effective role of entrepreneurship in the process of industrialization in the developing countries, India and other developing nations viewed this as an effective measure to develop entrepreneurship to promote national production, balanced regional development, dispersal of economic power and provide better employment opportunities. *IIE*

Simmtronic sets up memory manufacturing units

Delhi based semiconductor manufacturer, **Simmtronics Semiconductors** has set up manufacturing unit in **Uttaranchal** to manufacture entire range of memory modules to cater to the domestic and overseas markets. The unit is set up on the highway near Dehradun in Uttaranchal.

According to **Mr. Indrajit Sabharwal, Simmtronics managing director**, the vendor has invested about Rs 3 crores on the manufacturing facility in terms of importing equipment.

We will import components and raw materials to manufacture entire range of first party modules including SDRAM, DDR, DDR2, USB pen drives and so on, said Mr. Sabharwal.

The objective behind setting up the unit is to have a quick turn around time in terms of delivery and also RMA services and also work closely with the OEMs and assemblers in the country, he added.

Our entire business is driven through OEMs and channel partners, which constitute about 30 per cent and 70 per cent respectively of the total business, maintained Mr. Sabharwal.

Simmtronics has plans to open a manufacturing outside the country and in the Asia Pacific region to cater to overseas market.

Courtesy: CRN Network

Pine tree craft from Nainital

Some exceptional crafts were on display at Bangalore, giving a chance for people to witness some of the lesser known art and craft forms from across the country at the Handicrafts Expo at Government Pre University College.

Some of the exceptional crafts on display included pine tree craft from Nainital, Uttaranchal.

The myriad and colourful craft varieties encompass the best of Indian craft traditions.

Alps Industries

commenced operations with the installation of handlooms for manufacturing various types of fabrics and made-ups.

After a decade of successful operations, the company was incorporated as a Private Limited Company in 1972. In 1974, the company commenced exports of home furnishings. In 1994 it was converted into a Public Limited Company and made its initial offer in 1995.

Currently, Mr. K. K. Agarwal is Chairman of the company, while Mr. Sandeep Agarwal is the Managing Director.

The company is among the leading manufacturers of home furnishings, fashion accessories and architectural products.

It is perhaps the only one to use eco-friendly natural dyes in its home furnishings and fashion accessories.

The company sells its home furnishings and fashion accessories both in the domestic and export markets, whereas it sells architectural products only in the domestic market.

MoU signed between Jaikisan.org & Punjab National Bank

As a next step to its mission to provide rural infrastructure development with IT initiative, Jaikisan.org has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Punjab National Bank on 28th December, 2005.

The MoU facilitates the rural entrepreneurs in setting up Kisan Soochna Kendras by giving them easy access and fast processing of loans through various branches of Punjab National Bank.

The MoU facilitates the entrepreneurs in every village by making available:

- The forms and project report of Jaikisan.org from various branches of Punjab National Bank across the state.
- PNB would facilitate finances through all its branches across the state, for the Kisan Soochna



Kendra to be established in the rural areas under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojna (PMRY).

The MoU was signed by Mr. GK Sawhney, Zonal Manager PNB and Mr. Sanjeev Sharma, President Jaikisan.org

- After one year of operation the same scheme with advanced features of Kisan Soochna Kendra can be upgraded through Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojna Plus.
- Across the state by 2007, to develop IT Infrastructure 3000 Kisan Soochna Kendra have to be installed in rural areas through rural entrepreneurs.

Present on the occasion were the new Zonal Manager of PNB Mr. Vishvamitra Sharma.

The model has a revenue plan which is self-sustaining & generates employment for educated youth in the state.

Alps Industries inauguration on 18th

Chief Minister Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari will inaugurate Alps Industries in IIE Haridwar on 18th Feb., 2006. The company has four manufacturing units in Uttar Pradesh and one in Pondicherry.

Alps is probably the only company that uses eco-friendly & skin friendly natural dyes in its home furnishing and fashion accessories products.

The company's textiles products are exported to the US, Europe, South Africa and Hong Kong. The company

exports, directly or indirectly, to reputed lifestyle retail chains like Alexi Andriotti, Argox, Artee Group, Esprit, Folli Follie, Gap Inc, J. C. Penney, Target, Marks and Spencer, Massimo Dutti, Verricot, Wal-Mart.

According to Mr. IM Aggrawala, India is expected to perform better on cotton-based international textile trade as India is the world's third largest cotton producer and has about 25% share in global spinning capacity.

Given these circumstances,

demand for cotton yarn, home furnishings and garments from India are expected to rise significantly in times to come.

The company is not only well placed to tap emerging opportunities in the global textile trade, but also for taking strategic initiatives to strengthen its position, he added.

The company's brand "Vista" has become synonymous with "Window Fashions" while its other brand "Le Pashmina" has established a unique position.

Uttaranchal to explore nuclear option

In its quest for becoming "energy state", the Uttaranchal government is now exploring nuclear option.

Besides making efforts to tap the potential of hydro and gas, the government has now established contact with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a public sector undertaking spearheading India's nuclear power programme, to explore whether a nuclear power plant can be established in the state. In this regard, Power Secretary Mr. N Ravi Shanker is touch with NPCIL Chairman-Cum-Managing Director (CMD) Mr. S K Jain.

"I have requested them to see whether a nuclear power plant like Narora and others can also be established in Uttaranchal," Mr. Ravi Shanker said.

After having detail talks, Mr. Jain has now sought a detail report from the government regarding the seismic and geographical conditions in the state. "We are of the view that for establishing nuclear power plant, you need an isolated area. We are full of such areas. So we are hopeful in this direction," Mr. Ravi Shanker said.

When asked as to what kind of nuclear energy could be used, Mr. Ravi Shanker only said the issue very premature to comment upon. "We first want to complete basic formalities regarding nuclear plant. Other issues would come later," he said.

The government is presently keen to develop hydro power projects for which it has already identified 20000 MW of power potential in the state. The state government

has adopted a target of achieving generating capacity of 500 MW every year and 3000 MW in five years. At present projects of 5307 MW capacity are under construction and projects of 6735 MW capacity have been allocated for implementations to big companies like NTPC, NHPC and THDC.

In addition to hydro, the government has roped in the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to jointly examine various project opportunities for natural gas in the state and undertake extension of the National Gas Grid to Uttaranchal. For this purpose, the State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttaranchal Limited, a government enterprise which has developed several modern industrial estates, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GAIL recently.

Courtesy: Business Standard

Industries allotted plots in IIE Pantnagar (January 2006)

Golden Wings Agencies, ADI International, Gee Cee Corporation (P) Ltd., Gopi Metals Pvt. Ltd., Universal Comfort Products Pvt. Ltd., Era Metal Building Systems Ltd., Channel Auto Electric Pvt. Ltd., Shashi Enterprises, Ashoka Machine Tools Pvt. Ltd., Bharti Waters Pvt. Ltd., General Power Company Pvt. Ltd., Aparna Industries, Prem Packaging & Laminators, National Packaging, Akash Cables, JMD Helmets Pvt. Ltd., Real Innerspring Technologies (P) Ltd., The India Thermit Corporation Ltd., SVSCA Industries (India) Pvt. Ltd., Swati Garg, Nath Manufacturing & Distributor Pvt. Ltd., Anand Precision Works, A. N. Polymers Pvt. Ltd., Indian Ink & Chemical Industries, Empathy Pharma, K. L Packaging, Tosha Transformers, Miter & Miter Engineers Pvt. Ltd., Shiba Comp Pvt. Ltd., BNSR Engineers (P) Ltd., Perfect Sales Corporation, Jagdamba Tyre Retreading Co., Supertech Engineers, Maheshwari Foods, Lalit Kapoor, Bendwell Tube Engineers, Sambhav Packaging, Mohinder Sharma, and Ridhi Sidhi Gluco Biols Ltd.

Uttaranchal Tourism opens new office in Delhi

Continuing with its aggressive focus to attract tourists, Uttaranchal Tourism opened its second office in New Delhi.

Inaugurating the office at Janpath Hotel in Cannaught Place, Uttaranchal Tourism Minister Lt. Gen. (retd) TPS Rawat said, Customer focus was our key and we would make all efforts in reaching out to them.

The new office, which would have Uttaranchal Tourism Development Board, Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam and Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam under one roof, was an attempt towards the same,

he added. Uttaranchal Tourism Secretary Mr. Alok Kumar Jain, senior officials of UTDB, GMVN and KMVN were present at the occasion.

Integration of the office was part of a larger game plan adopted by Uttaranchal Tourism to bring both corporations (GMVN and KMVN) under one roof for the convenience of customers and travel agents in all major cities of the country.

Last year Uttaranchal had a record 140 lakh registered tourists, including about 75,000 foreigners and this year it aimed to host 150 lakh, including about a lakh

foreigners.

The effort was to improve 'AIM' (Accessibility, Infrastructure and Marketing), Gen. Rawat said and added that first ever all-India advertising campaign launched recently to woo tourists to the state this winter.

The campaign focused on wildlife and Adventure tourism, including skiing destination, and positioned the state as a 'sunshine' state on North India during winters. Later, the strategy would shift to water sports, he added.

Courtesy: UNI

IDD: Special Initiatives, Activities and Achievements

- *Under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojna (PMRY) against the target of 8000 for the year 2005-06, upto Jan. 2006, 12161 applications have been forwarded to the banks and 6534 cases have been sanctioned.*
- *Disbursement of Rs.3176 lacs have been made in 4738 cases.*
- *Under the PMRY Plus scheme launched by the Department this year, 187 applications have been forwarded to various bank branches in districts.*
- *55 cases have been sanctioned involving an amount of Rs. 101.27 lacs and 23 beneficiaries have been disbursed total loan of 27.22 lac.*
- *The Uttaranchal Industries Facilitation Council setup under the Interest on Delayed Payments Act, 1993 (as amended 1998) under the chairmanship of Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Director, Industries held its meeting on 31st Jan. 2006 in the Directorate of Industries, Uttaranchal.*



Special Handloom Expo was organized by the Uttaranchal Handloom and Handicraft Development Council (UHHDC) in Dehradun from 21st.December,2005 to 4th.Jan.2006. Minister for Labour and Employment, Mr. Hira Singh Bist inaugurated the Expo while Minister for SSI, Khadi & Horticulture Mr. Govind Singh Kunjwal was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony. The Expo drew a large number of buyers and visitors and recorded sales of over Rs.100 lakh. 200 stalls from all over the country, including 60 stalls from Uttaranchal presented before the visitors a wide range of attractive handloom products, which were very well received and appreciated. Woolen products including angora from Uttaranchal hills and durries and bed sheets from Kashipur area were in great demand. Handloom saris from Orissa, West-Bengal and Karnataka were special attraction.



The Uttaranchal Vidhan Sabha Prakkalan Samiti (Assessment Committee of the Hon'ble State Legislative Assembly) held its meeting on 30th Jan. 2006. Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary Industries and other officers participated in this meeting and provided necessary information and clarifications.

To expedite sanctions and disbursements as also to address various points and problems raised by the DICs and banks, a video conference was organized on 6th Jan. 2006 between GM, DICs, LDMs and District Coordinators of banks in the districts and Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary Industries and senior bank officers in NIC, Dehradun.

Yes Bank in Uttarakhand floriculture sector

Yes Bank, an emerging private bank in India, has entered Uttarakhand to tap the potential of floriculture sector which needs to be appropriately harnessed, officials said.

The Government of Uttarakhand through its nodal agency State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd (SIDCUL) is establishing a Floriculture Project enabling comprehensive project execution inclusive of machinery supply, construction, management and operation of the entire set up to promote the floriculture sector by growing high quality bulbous material.

The bank has been appointed as project advisor by SIDCUL for their upcoming floriculture project in Chafi area in Nainital district in this regard.

The bank has already come out with an investment strat-

egy report titled "Uttarakhand: The Next Destination" for the state in partnership with PHDCCI.

The report highlighted key growth sectors in Uttarakhand that should be harnessed for sustainable and commercial socio economic development of the state.

It also details implementable strategies for sustained and continuous investment in the state with a focus on agribusiness, tourism, information technology, biotechnology and Infrastructure.

"Our objective is to develop floriculture in a big way with reference to both domestic and export markets," a bank official told Business Standard.

"With the project, SIDCUL

aims to promote and scale up the development of the floriculture industry in the state, with the participation of local hill farmers and entrepreneurs by use of the latest technological intervention, and as a means for creation of employment and income generation opportunities for farmers in the State," he added.

The project is likely to get operationalized within this year. Yes Bank officials said they had tremendous expertise in public-private partnerships in sectors like food and agribusiness, infrastructure, life sciences and biotechnology, education, tourism, SME and information technology.

A specialized development and knowledge banking group has been constituted from the start-up stage of the bank to focus on these sectors, the officials said.

Courtesy: Business Standard

Prestige plans retail chain for modular kitchens

TTK Prestige, the Rs 200-crore manufacturer of kitchen appliances, is shaping plans to set up Prestige Boutiques, a separate retail chain for its modular kitchens.

Prestige will also invest Rs 20 crore to set up a manufacturing plant in Uttarakhand.

The company also plans to invest Rs 50 crore on brand building and promotion in the next two years.

Initially, the company will

invest from its personal kitty to set up 5-10 Prestige Boutiques. The investment per outlet in these boutiques is expected to be around Rs 70 to Rs 80 lakh. The rest of the expansion will be through the franchisee route.

Prestige also plans to more than double the number of its Prestige Smart Kitchens, its retail chain for kitchen appliances, by 2007.

There are currently 72 Prestige Smart Kitchens spread in the southern and western part of the country.

Mr. Chandru Kalro, Executive Vice-President of marketing, TTK Prestige Ltd, said the new outlets will be launched in the northern and eastern part of the country.

He said there are also plans to increase the company's rural retail network to 10 in the next couple of years.

While modular kitchens cost between Rs 50,000 and Rs 25 lakh, the company's modular kitchens are priced at Rs 1.25 lakh onwards.

Jaspur Spinning Mill

Jaspur Spinning Mill (Erstwhile unit of UPSTC Kanpur), was lying closed since Oct, 98. The Uttarakhand Government took over the physical possession of the mill on 20th Aug, 2004.

SIDCUL distributed VRS & Legal dues to 1200 employees of Jaspur Spinning Mill in Jan, 2005-Rs. 11.5 crore approx. and the rehabilitated has been ensured through privatization

M/s Alps Industries Ltd. has been given the mill on Lease.

Approx. 800-1000 employees will be getting direct employment. It is expected to commence production in June 2006. The expected Yarn Production would be 300 to 350 tonnes per month.

The additional land has been earmarked for setting up of a textile cum Apparel park; which would ensure that the sale of assets would meet the investments undertaken in the VRS.

Another erstwhile UPSTC mill has also been restarted on a similar model. This is a mill of 50000 spindles and has already come into commercial production.

Uttaranchal to buy aircraft

Uttaranchal Government would buy a nine seater aircraft from US-based Raytheon Aircraft Company at a price of Rs 23 crore. The new plane would be a nine-passenger beech aircraft, which Raytheon considered it as one among the best.

Courtesy: Business Standard

GVKPIL to set up plants in Uttaranchal

Andhra-based GVK Power and Infrastructure Ltd (GVKPIL) will set up plants in Uttaranchal generating around 1200 Mw power, at a cost of Rs . 5,500 crore.

The proposed plants, will come up in Srinagar and Napang in Uttaranchal .

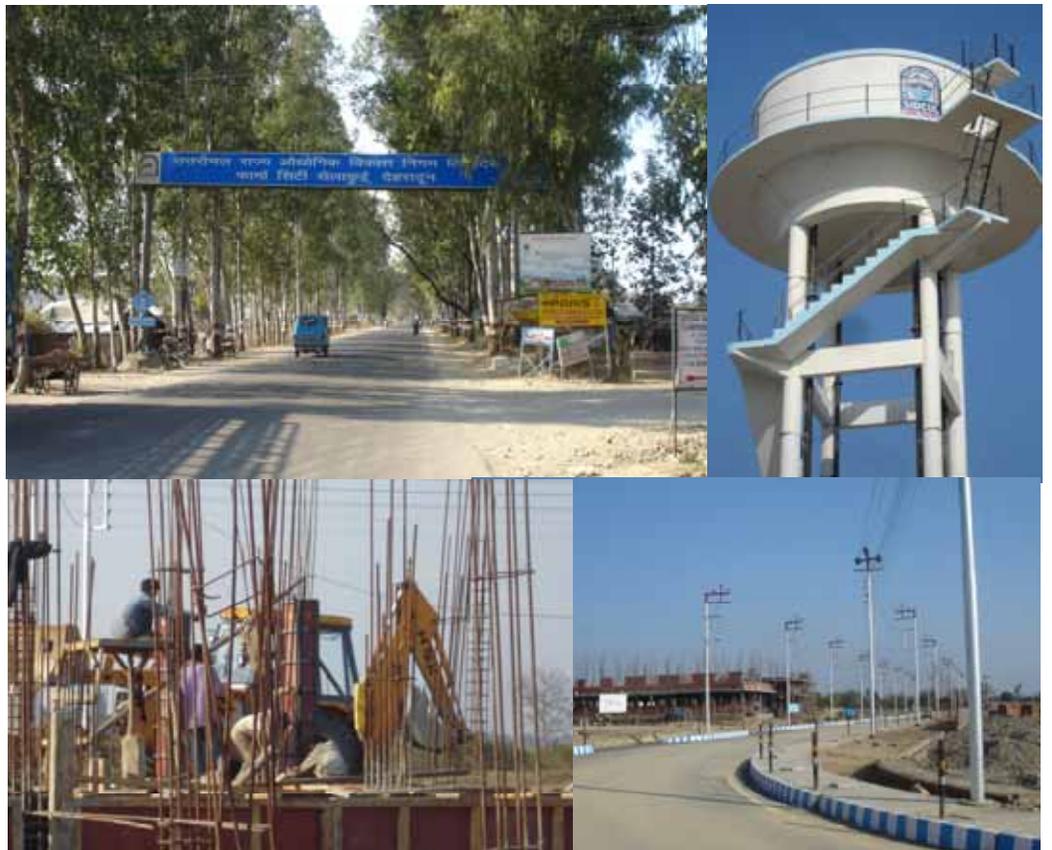
The coal-based plants at Uttaranchal would produce 500 Mw, Mr. Som Bhupal, director of GVKPIL, said .

Courtesy: Press Trust of India

IIE Haridwar: Development from Camera's eyes



Pharma Ci ty, Sel a Qui , Dehradun



IIE Pantnagar: Development from Camera's eyes



IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehardun



Uttaranchal to upgrade rest houses

The Uttaranchal government has decided to upgrade the tourist rest houses (TRHs) of both the Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN) and Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN).

An initial investment of Rs 5 crore will be spent this year while an equal amount has been earmarked for the next financial year for the upgrade, in order to attract tourists, Tourism Secretary Mr. Alok Jain said.

Tourist rest houses are the main source of accommodation in hilly regions.

UHHDC wins the first prize in Republic Day Tableau



Uttaranchal Handloom and Handicrafts Development Council (UHHDC) has won the first prize in Republic Day Tableau, at Dehradun, this year. Chief Minister Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari, presented the trophy to Mr. SC Nautiyal, Chief Executive Officer, UHHDC in the presence of Chief Secretary, Mr. M Ramachandran. The Department of Industrial Development & Information Technology (SIDCUL & ITDA) had also fielded a joint tableau.

Rs 246 lakh okayed to revive woolen, cotton sectors.

State government will organize expos in Dehra Dun and other parts of the country.

It has set up Uttaranchal Handloom and Handicraft Development Council, a nodal agency to boost various artisan products.

It has modernized handicraft centre at Kashi pur in Kumaon region with state-of-the-art machineries, computers.

The government is in touch with National Institute of Fashion Technology for upgrading the designs.

Valley of Flowers is the theme for Republic Day tableau



Uttaranchal is gifted with splendid flora and fauna and a unique treasure and biodiversity zone known as Valley of Flowers.

Secretary, Information, Mr. DK Kotia has said that the Information and Public Relations Department had selected Valley of Flowers as the theme for the tableau, which was displayed at the national level Republic Day Celebrations –2006 held in New Delhi.

The Uttaranchal Tableau portrayed the unique facets of the Valley of Flowers – its landscape, unparalleled topographical charm, outstanding natural beauty and captivating floral biodiversity to the vast across section of national and international viewers. He also informed that as many as 26 members of cultural troupes performed their cultural programmes along with tableau. The Valley of Flowers, is locally known as Bhyundar Valley in Chamoli district and is the priceless treasure of Uttaranchal.

Edited by
Vipul Dhasmana,
Consultant,
Corporate Communications,
SIDCUL,
Dehradun—248001.
Uttaranchal.

E-mail
vipul.dhasmana@gmail.com
Ph: 09412992605

Published by
Department of Industrial
Development,
Government of Uttaranchal.

Printed at
Government Press, Roorkee.
(For Free Distribution).

Kindly send the news items
along with photographs
through email only—Editor.

We are on the web
<http://ua.nic.in>
www.sidcul.com