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ASSOCIATION OF
NORTH AMERICA

Uttaranchal Patrika

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BOARD of DIRECTORS (BOD)

Dr. Roop Singh Bhakuni
(Chairman)
(330) 666-5532
roopb@aol.com

Mr. Mohan Barthwal
(732) 470-8255
mohanbarthwal@optonline.net

Mr. Naresh Bhatt
(703) 241-1667
dishesofindia@aol.com

Dr. Gopal K. Dhariyal
(732) 991-3162
gk_dhariyal@yahoo.com

Mr. Prakash Khanduri
732-939-8880
prakash_khanduri@yahoo.com

Dr. Harish Pant
(301) 984-0541
panth@ninds.nih.gov

Dr. Sanjana Raturi
(609) 799-7577
raturis@gmail.com

Mr. Ajay Rawat
(703) 722-2839
ajay.rawat@fcps.edu



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A few words

*Let us keep doing our best to do our best,
every single time, no matter what, forever.*

Dear UANA and Uttarakhand Community members, and friends:

UANA Communication and Patrika Team are very pleased to bring this newly designed edition of UANA patrika to you. We hope you enjoy reading it. This is your patrika and thus we are interested in hearing your thoughts, what you like about it, and what you do not like about it. We greatly value your comments and constructive criticism as it will allow us to make this patrika even more enjoyable to our readers.

We thank our readers since most of what we are able to publish comes from readers like you who have taken time from their busy life and have volunteered to contribute to UANA patrika. We greatly appreciate your contributions and invite you to submit articles for consideration into next issue of patrika. A call for articles with a proposed list of topics can be found on the patrika page at www.uttaranchal.org.

We also thank our publishers, selfless volunteers, UANA board members, and UANA members whose help, support, and inspiration make publication of UANA patrika possible.

Gopal K. Dhariyal
UANA Communication Director
(On behalf of UANA communication, and Patrika Team)

Tarun Joshi

UANA
Established 1998



Message From the President of UANA

Dear Friends:

It is with a great pleasure and a sense of satisfaction, I would like to report to you the steady progress in bringing our Noble Organization back to its deserving status. As many of the projects and accomplishments have been communicated to you from time to time by our very able and persistent Communication Director, Dr. Gopal K. Dhariyal, some of the noteworthy past, present, and ongoing activities soon to be communicated are as follows:

UANA Back home Uttarakhand focus:

- Award for Academic Excellence
- Sweet Village Project to help victims of the "Sweet Village" tragedy
- Jeevan Jagriti Project to sponsor educational expenses of underprivileged children
- Swagat_USA program
- Women Shelter Project
- Awareness Camp project

UANA North America focus:

- Revised UANA bylaws and newly created UANA code of ethics
- Annual UANA convention showcasing talent of Uttarakhandi community
- Mentoring program
- Service Award (Nomination deadline June 30, 2009)
- UANA patrika
- Local chapter formation in tri-state (NJ, NY, and PA) and in National Capitol region (MD, Washington DC, and VA)

The upcoming 11th Annual Convention in Washington DC, like the one last year in NY, promises to surpass all expectations. Devine presence of H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji Maharaj, President, Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand (please see details at the following websites: <http://www.parmarth.com>; www.ihrf.com; <http://www.parmarth.com/updates/aug-sept2008.pdf>; and www.parmarth.com/ihrf2009-newsletter.pdf).

I would like to urge all members all over the USA and Canada to avail this opportunity to attend this unique annual event showcasing talent of our own Uttarakhandi community for utmost enjoyment and seek the divine blessings of Swamiji. Please support the event by your attendance, sponsorship, or volunteering by active participation in many activities and projects of the Organization.

Dr. Jagdish C. Bhandari
UANA President

Know about Uttarakhand: Parks

- Nandadevi National Park, 830 sq. km., Chamoli
- Rajaji National Park, 820 sq. km. Chamoli
- Valley of Flower, 8750 sq. km., Chamoli
- Askot Musk Dear Sanctuary, 593 sq. km., Pithoragarh
- Binsar Sanctuary, 4559 sq. km., Almora
- Govind Pashu Vihar Sanctuary, 481 sq. km., Uttarkashi
- Kedarnath Sanctuary, 967 sq. km., Rudraprayag
- Mausoorie Sanctuary, 967 sq. km., Dehradun
- Sonanandi Sanctuary, 1082 sq. km., Pauri Garhwal
- Jim Corbett National Park, 5299 sq. km., Ram Nagar, Nainital



A Boy's Travels in the Himalayas - Saurabh Bahuguna

Traveling to Kedarnath from there became like going to the city parks in the US.

Uttarakhand is full of such spots where geography and mythology are intertwined.

I was born in a small town in a house with sweeping views of the high Himalayas. You can say I was born with love of mountains in my blood. My dad moved around a lot, from one beautiful Uttarakhand town to the next, while the rest of our family settled in Dehradun. Every summer, me and sometimes few of my friends from Lucknow, trying to beat the brutal summer heat of the plains, would go stay with my dad. This was before trekking and river rafting in the Himalayas became the cool thing to do and in many places we went to, we were the only city boys.

Whenever my dad went to a new place I would ask him two questions about it: Does the place have a river and can you see the Himalayas from the house ? My dad in his efforts to entice me over, would always say yes, at times stretching the truth a bit. Sometimes the river was a couple kilometers below the house and sometimes to see the snowy peaks we had to climb up a couple kilometers. But it was always worth the visit. The places were invariably beautiful, the weather was perfect and the food was amazing... especially the mutton. In those days, goats were sacrificed routinely in temples and villages and the fresh meat was delicious.

Everything in the mountains was awesome to our little minds. We listened raptly as my father once pointed to the dense forests in the distance and said, "This is the Nanda Devi Reserve. No man has gone into some of its areas" or when my grandfather proudly told us of Nandprayag: "This is the place beyond which even the great Sir Edmund Hillary's jet boat couldn't go in his Ocean to Sky expedition". I recently read an article on the CIA's secret expedition to place a nuclear monitoring device on top of Nanda Devi to keep tabs on the Chinese nuclear programme. I had to chuckle as I remembered my Dad's words. Apparently, when he said that no man has gone into the reserve, he didn't mean the spooks of CIA. Those guys are everywhere.

My favorite place amongst all places my Dad stayed in was Ukhimath near Kedarnath. It had an unbelievable location. Traveling to Kedarnath from there became like going to the city parks in the US. Every other week we would find someone going there and tag along. The more than 10 kilometer trek was no big deal to us then. I remember distinctly the thrill of walking along a narrow path with the river Mandakini roaring below. Along the route were sadhus meditating in tiny caves searching for, well, whatever they

search for. I remember the final turn after which you got the most amazing view you could see in your life: the temple framed by towering Himalayan peaks, snow lying like freshly made butter on the mountain. We would have a quick darshan in the temple and then explore the small town. There is a path which goes up to the mountains which was supposedly taken by the Pandavas when they ascended to heaven (Uttarakhand is full of such spots where geography and mythology are intertwined). We once went up this path and upto a small glacier. I promptly proceeded to slide on the glacial ice only to discover that that my brand new black jeans was colored by some cheap dye. Rest of my day was spent walking around with a white rear getting laughed at mercilessly by everyone.

Another amazing place I went to from Ukhimath was Madmaheshwar. This was a two day journey which we undertook on horses. My Dad had some official business there and baited me along, saying "Once we are there you can virtually shake hands with Chaukhamba, we'll be so close to the peak". So on we went for two days and two nights. Nothing much grows in this area so our food after a while was potatoes and some green vegetable which was described to me as "Choocha" (thankfully it was a veggie, not what the name implied). I remember one scary part of this trip: my horse or mule to be exact went nuts at one point and took off at full speed. This along a narrow path with a river a few hundred feet below. Thankfully he came to his senses before flipping me over.

After the long journey, we were finally at Madmaheshwar. You can imagine me being a little cranky after sitting on horseback for two days. My dad made me climb another hour, up a small hill, to "shake hands" with Chaukhamba. Well, after all this, the mountain didn't exactly look that close to me and I was mighty miffed. He still hears from me to this day. It reminds me of a recent trip I made with my sister's family to the Grand Canyon. My nephew, Rohan, endured this long car trip with our promises of an amazing experience. Once we were there, as everyone was admiring the massive canyon, Rohan looked in disdain and said "Is THIS what we came all the way here for? ". I laughed and remembered my reaction on seeing Chaukhamba, understanding exactly how my nephew felt.

Madmaheshwar was truly beautiful though. It was foggy almost all the time we were there. There were three humans, eight dogs and about two hundred sheep in that place. One of the humans was a swamiji who stayed there the whole year despite death threats from smugglers of Kasturi Mrigs. Swamiji hosted us very graciously and regaled us with tales of the place. I wonder if he is still there.

These are some memories of my travels in the Himalayas. There are so many more of them; too many to recount here. The amazing views from Tungnath, the haunted "dak bangla" of Dugal Bitta, the confluence at Deoprayag where Ganga starts after the serene Alaknanda and the violent Bhagirathi merge, the underground caves of Patal Bhuvenshwar where a portal to moksha was introduced in the form of a dark, foreboding cavern opening: I can go on and on. Uttarakhand has wonderful scenery, amazing beauty and countless stories to excite the young mind. Ruskin Bond in his writings captures the essence of the place as I experienced it. As an adult, I now think that things might not have been easy for the residents of these tall, harsh mountains, but to a kid it was wonderland.

I long to return to places of my childhood in the mountains. Time constraints, however, prohibit this from happening. Perhaps I'll return for good some day, for I fully agree with Kipling when he said "the last puff of the day-wind brought from the unseen villages, the scent of damp wood-smoke, hot cakes, dripping undergrowth, and rotting pine-cones. That is the true smell of the Himalayas, and if once it creeps into the blood of a man, that man will at last, forgetting all else, return to the hills to die."

Haiku (HI-coo)

Haiku is a poetic form and a type of poetry from the Japanese culture. Haiku combines form, content, and language in a meaningful, yet compact form. The most common form for Haiku is three short lines. The first line usually contains five (5) syllables, the second line seven (7) syllables, and the third line contains five (5) syllables. Haiku doesn't rhyme. A Haiku must "paint" a mental image in the reader's mind. This is the challenge of Haiku - to put the poem's meaning and imagery in the reader's mind in ONLY 17 syllables over just three (3) lines of poetry! Check out a Haiku Poetry 'Snow' at bottom right by Sidharsh Joshi.

Previously called *hokku*, haiku was given its current name by the Japanese writer Masaoka Shiki at the end of the 19th century. Most writers of literary [haiku in English](#) use about ten to fourteen syllables, with no formal pattern.

In the early 20th century Nobel laureate [Rabindranath Tagore](#) composed haiku in [Bengali](#). He also translated some from Japanese. In [Gujarati](#), Zeenabhai Ratanji Desai 'Sneharashmi' popularized haiku^[23] and remains a popular haiku composer.

Stocks and Stock Market for Kids - Nitin Bhat

Stock, is really a share of a company. It represents ownership of a company's assets and profits. A dividend on a share of stock represents that share's portion of the company's profits.

You hear about the stock market in the TV/radio almost every day. It goes up by so many points and comes down by few points everyday of the week; well...It's closed on weekends.

So have you ever wondered what is this stock market OR what are stocks .what do people buy/sell here (well it's a market after all). If you

have questions like these, this article will open your eyes to a whole new world of shares/stocks and a unique market.

We are going to take an example to show you how a company is formed and how it makes money. Ones a company is formed how other people like us can buy this company with little money OR a share of a company and be part

Women in the Himalayas

Painting by Poorva Pant



Music Still Inside

- Runjhun Saklani

Don't die with your music still inside:
Someone had given me this advice;
Live life with thrill and passion much,
A humble lore, simple and wise;

Each day brings us some promises new,
Of sunrise, chirping birds - blue sky;
We have a choice to behold them then,
Or let them pass and slip by....

Snow – a haiku

- Sidharsh Joshi, 2nd Grade

18 Snowballs fire
Icicles shoot down from cars
Coming like ice pops

of the profits that a company makes.

Let's say that you want to start a business, and you decide to open a Candy store. You borrow money from your dad. You go out and rent a store, buy all different varieties of your favorite candies from a club market, tables/chairs that you need and you are ready to sell Candies now. Your total Investment is \$1000.

Let's say that:

You spend \$500 renting a road side store (This will occur every month)

You spend \$100 in chairs/ cash register and other furniture. (One time expense)

Also, you spend rest of \$400 on candies - you spend 10 cents on each candy, which is 10 for \$1, so 4000 candies for \$400. (Let's say this will occur every month)

So, your total first time Investment is \$1000 out of which \$900 will be recurring cost that you will need every month.

Are you with me so far! Ready to do business, you have decided that since your store is on a busy street close to a kids park, you are go--ing to sell a candy for 50 cents.

At the end of your first month, you have sold all the candies, now you add up all of the money you have received by selling candies and your total income is \$2000 (4000 x 50 cents). Great!

Your profit for 1st month is: \$1000. This is How ... $\$2000$ (income) - 1000 (investment) = $\$1000$ profit.

But wait, from next month you only need \$900 (store rent and candies cost) as expense, so you will make more profit from next month: \$1100, this is How ... $\$2000$ (income) - 900 (expense) = $\$1100$ profit.

So from now on you will earn \$1100 in profits and your expense remains same \$900 every month. Great!

So lets say in first year (total 12 months) your expense was $\$900 \times 12$ months = $\$10,800$ and your income is $\$2000 \times 12 = \$24,000$

Since you have made \$24,000 and paid out the \$10,800 for expenses, your net profit is:

$\$24,000$ (income) - $\$10,800$ (expense) = $\$13,200$ (net profit)

Next year, you are going to add more candies / gums to your store and sell more. Let's say next year you made total \$15,000 in net profits. So you are growing in your business. Great!

At this point your cousin likes what you are doing and wants to be part of this nice store you are running. He wants 10% of your growing business and is ready to invest money with you. But how do you price your business and sell 10% of it to your cousin? Let's do that now.

Currently your business is making \$15,000 in net profits, so how much is your total business worth? Once you know that value you can ask your cousin to pay you 10% of that total value and be a partner with you.

Lets say some one invested 150,000 with a 10% return, how much will that person earn a year - it will be \$15,000. So if you assume 10% return from your store then your business is worth \$150,000, Correct. If you assume it's returning 5% a year so today it could be \$300,000 worth a business.

If your business grows and you are confident that it will return more than 5% in future so you will set price of total \$300,000 today. Divide that in to 10 pieces (10% shares - each piece) and each piece comes to \$30,000. So, now you are ready to give 10% of your store for \$30,000 in return.

Let's get little crazy here and divide our company in 1000 pieces, so each piece/share will be valued at $\$300,000 / 1000 = \300 . Here, you have divided the ownership in 1000 shares.

Actually, other family members are impressed by your business and are ready to buy a share of your store. Well, now you can sell 1 share (piece) to your family members at \$300 each share/piece. So you are going to keep majority of shares with you (say 600) and sell 400 to your family & friends.

But remember each year you have to give them part of profit which will depend on how many shares they own.

So first year you will pay your net profit of \$15,000 (you remember that!) in 1000 pieces. So each share/piece will get: $\$15,000 / 1000 = \15 in profit. Isn't it great, your friends invest \$300 and get \$15 every year and the share value (\$300) will go up if the business does well? The share price goes up in anticipation that your business will grow and the net profit will rise. Your friends can sell the share any time they want to anyone interested in your company. OK.

So Stock, is really a share of a company. It represents ownership of a company's assets and profits.

A dividend on a share of stock represents that share's portion of the company's profits, generally given out yearly, currently you are giving \$15 in dividends - you remember!

OK. So that was a stock/share of a company, so what is the stock market?

In the above example you sold shares to your family & friends. What if you want to sell these to all citizens of your community? Also, what if some one wants to sell your stock, well they have to find a buyer first, isn't it, which can be hard job. A "stock market" helps resolve this buy/sell problem.

You have seen many markets, like toy market, grocery market; they sell items which you are willing to buy. Well, just think of a stock market as a place where you can buy different companies stocks or share. Here, you can also sell

your shares if some one is willing to buy them. You can imagine this as a big place where thousands of companies trade their shares to common public. You can find big companies like IBM, Coke, Pepsi, Microsoft etc. list their shares in stock exchanges such as NASDAQ and NYSE (New York stock exchanges). These exchanges makes buying and selling easy for the share holders.

The prices of company shares on these stock markets changes continuously depending on the news / events connected to a company. For example If your candy store decides to open another store in nearby city , that will have an effect on your companies share price because your net profit may rise because of this other store and profits might go up which in turn make rise to your share value. OR some months if your store did not sell enough candies, well ... that will drive the stock price down in anticipation of losses. That's how the price fluctuates in the market.

Got it! Simple ... Isn't it.

Hearst Castle - Rohan Bhat, 4th Grade

Hearst castle is United States National Historic Landmark, this once known as an enchanted hill. Francisco architect Julia Morgan designed most of the castle; total footage of the castle is over 90,000 square feet.

Here I am going to write about my summer trip to California. This was one memorable trip which I would not forget. One place which I am going to write here is 'The Hearst castle'. On our drive to San Francisco we stopped at the Hearts Castle. I am going to write more about this place. Because I think this is one unique place that everyone should visit. Here are some facts of Hearst Castle:

Right now it is owned by the Hearst family. Hearst Castle has 56 bedrooms, 61 bathrooms, 19 sitting rooms, and 127 acres of garden, there is an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, two tennis courts, a movie theatre, an airfield, and the worlds largest privet zoo. The swimming Pools are really beautiful.

The castles builder Mr. William Hearst got inspired by European palaces which he visited during his childhood. He wanted to make something similar in America.

Hearst castle was once known as an enchanted hill (It was also known as a Ranch before the castle was built). George Hearst, who is Williams's father, purchased the land in 1865. San Francisco architect Julia Morgan designed most of the castle. Hearst castle is United States National Historic Landmark. The total footage of the castle is over 90,000 square feet. The castles ceilings are imported from Mexico. Zebras are still present in the Private zoo. Most movie stars & political elite had visited Hearst castle, such as Charlie Chaplin, The Marks brothers, Franklin Roosevelt and many others.

The mansion was donated to the State of California by the Hearst Corporation. They have a guided tour which took us through the life of William Hearst and his family, the art collection, architecture, gardens and history of the Castle. We also watched a movie that showed how this castle was built; don't miss it if you are there.

After the castle, we drove along to see the sea & mountains (Route 1 pacific hwy). Next day we went to a place called the Yosemite. It's about 4 hours drive from San Francisco. The Yosemite national park is about 80 Acre Park. It is full of Granite Mountains and beautiful trees. I could not believe how tall these mountains are, we saw a sign that said that we are at 6000 ft & mountains just started from that high point!

This trip was a good experience as I saw many places with my family.

मेरी माँ

- Ritu Negi

माँ का वो प्यार और त्याग
तब नजर में हैं आया
अपनी गृहस्थी चलाते -चलाते
जब कभी खुद को अकेला पाया

बड़ी नाराजगी हम दिखाते हैं
पति से प्यार के दो बोल न पाके
एक 'माँ' हमारी जीती रही बस बेचारी
खुद को भुलाके परिवार के आगे



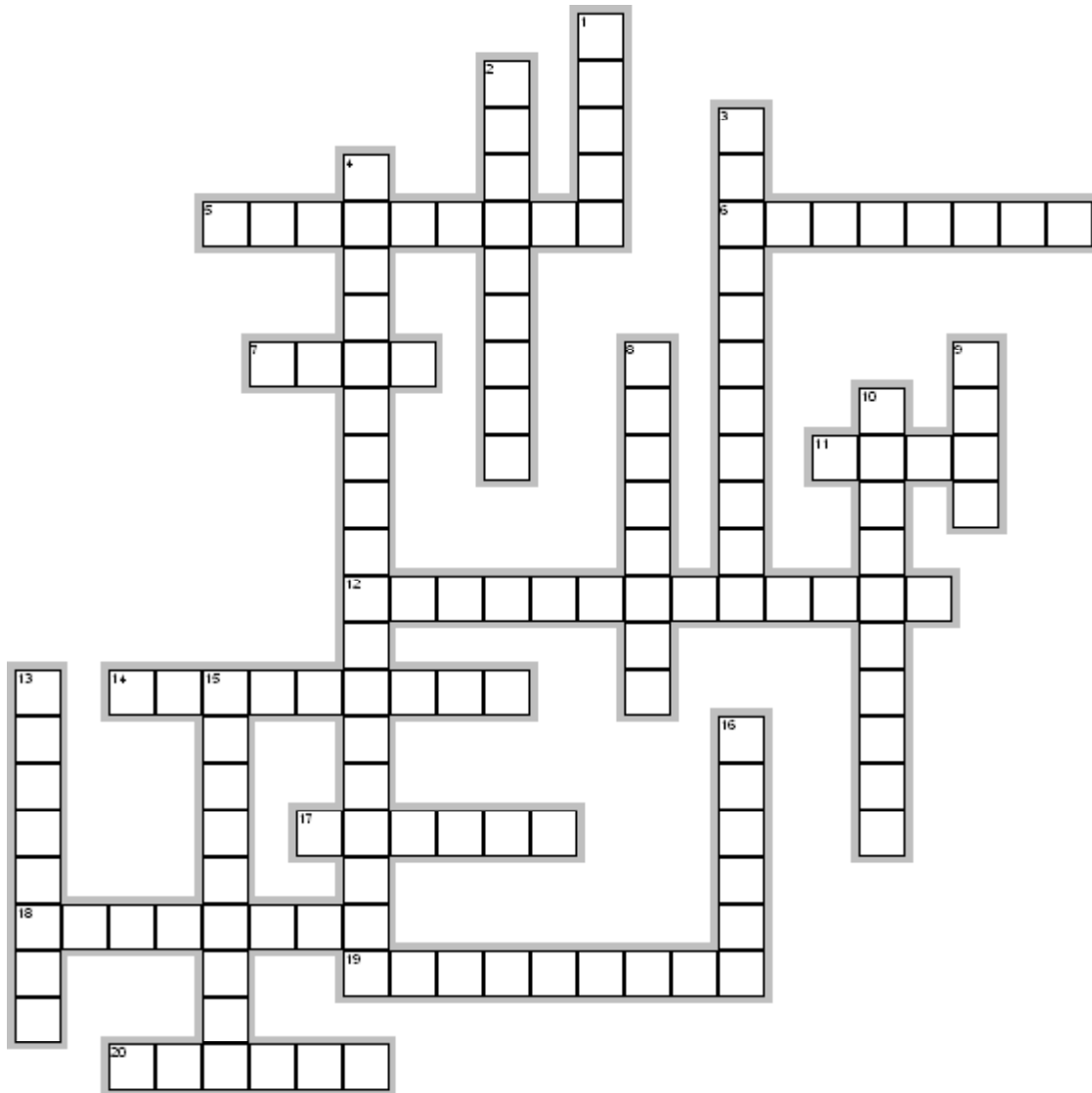
हमसे सही नहीं जाती जरा भी
आज अपने बच्चो की मनमानी
हमारी शरारतों पर भी, मीठास से भरी
रहती थी मेरी 'माँ' की वाणी

पता नहीं ये कैसा समय आया हैं
हमने क्यों अपना संयम गवांया हैं
काश ! मुझमे मेरी 'माँ' की सहनशीलता होती
तब शायद मुझे खुद से कोई शिकायत न होती

Uttarakhand Crossword

- Tarun Joshi

Test your knowledge, how much do you know about your home state. Read the clue given at the bottom of crossword and find the word hidden in the puzzle



Across

5. Bhagirathi begins from
8. Temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu
10. First Kumaoni Film
12. First Garhwali Film
16. City where Laxman Jhula is
18. River in Last Village of India (Tibet/China Border)
19. First woman from India to summit Everest

Down

1. a city submerged in water
2. Uttarakhand Capital
3. Limestone cave temple
4. Sun Temple in Uttarakhand
6. Last Village of India (Tibet/China Border)
7. Environmental movement by Sunder Lal Bahuguna
8. Festival when married women worship Savitri and the banyan tree
9. Second highest mountain in India
11. Lord who loves bells hanging in the premises
13. Where Alakhanada and Bhagirathi meets
14. Total districts in Uttarakhand
15. Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva
17. Black Bean

UANA 10th Annual Convention (Kauthik)

Saturday, July 26th 2008, Poughkeepsie, New York

- Runjhun Saklani and Gopal K. Dhariyal on behalf of 10th Annual UANA organizing committee, and UANA

More than 320 North American Uttarakhandis, that included more than 100 starting their journey on Friday in two buses from Washington DC Metro/Virginia area, came together for the 10th Annual UANA Convention in Poughkeepsie, New York on July 26th, 2008 (Saturday). The convention with the theme of Kauthik (a village fair) received big thumbs up from all attendees who were thrilled to spend time with their Uttarakhandi family far away from home in a truly festive atmosphere. Visitors from India and Canada made the occasion very vibrant and special.

The morning program started with a meeting of the board members that was followed by a general body meeting. The general body approved the newly created UANA bylaws since old bylaws required revision with evolving requirements and growth of the UANA. The meeting was followed by a formal lunch with a seminar session. The seminar coordinators and speakers spent countless hours in preparing for and arranging an informative seminar session. The topic of this informative seminar session varied from the back home Uttarakhand focus to the North America focus. The seminar session was coordinated by Dr. Kumud Sanwal and Dr. Gopal K. Dhariyal. During this seminar session, Dr. Roop S. Bhakuni, UANA board chairman, and his wife Mrs. Rosa Bhakuni provided an update about how their GYAN initiative in Uttarakhand is contributing to help spread literacy. Dr. Jagdish Bhandari, UANA president, spoke about UTTARAKHAND HILLS: Basic Needs of Villages - Water, Education, and Industry. He talked about some of the creative solutions that are in progress to address the basic needs of our देव-भूमि, उत्तराखण्ड. The UANA director, Mr. Prakash Khanduri, and an eminent guest from Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Mr. Shiv Nand Chamoli (Ex-treasurer, Ex-Vice President and spokesperson state-wide Uttarakhand Kranti Dal or UKD of Dehradun branch) presented "Uttarakhand Specialty and Challenges". They spoke about practical solutions to solve current problems in Uttarakhand. UANA director, Dr. Gopal K. Dhariyal, presented UANA's ongoing projects and activities, and then officially launched the UANA mentoring program by talking about "Leader Behavior for a Successful Career". This was followed by a presentation from UANA director, Dr. Sanjana Raturi, about mentoring children and youth back home in Uttarakhand using Web based information technology. Then all participants proceeded in a bus convoy to the auditorium for an evening extravaganza showcasing our rich cultural heritage and traditions.

Upon their arrival at the Family Partnership Center's auditorium, everyone was greeted at the registration desk and reception lobby. Attractive convention brochures outlining the program details and other several UANA related hand outs were distributed to the attendees. The evening cultural program started with an invocation to Lord Ganesh. This was followed by a Sanskrit hymn to holy Ganga 'Gangastotram' composed by Adi Sankaracharya, beautifully sung by the Tri-State Uttaranchali choir.

The two and a half hours long cultural program, articulately compered by Ms. Bhawana Bist and Mr. Pritam Dimri, was officially inaugurated by Dr. J.P. Kukreti, Dr. Anju Kumar (Consul - Education from Consulate General of India, NY), and Dr. Jagdish Bhandari with lighting of lamp. Dr. Jagdish. C. Bhandari (President UANA) introduced the honored guest, Dr. Anju Kumar, who then gave a keynote speech about Uttarakhandis in North America and Indian Diaspora (**Appendix I**). Dr. Kukreti (**Appendix II**) and Dr. Bhandari also addressed the audience. The evening continued with a myriad of cultural programs including Pahadi group dances, Pahadi and Hindi songs, solo dance performances and poetry recitation by UANA members, and even UANA board members. It was delightful to see participants of all age groups ranging from 18 months old to 96 years old on the stage with enthusiasm and passion. Towards the end, the audience could not stop themselves from joining the performers on stage, further enhancing the celebration. Prior to leaving for the Grand Ballroom (Best Western Hotel), where a formal dinner and exhibition were arranged, the new UANA board was invited on stage by Dr. Jagdish C. Bhandari.

The exhibits at the Grand Ballroom included models of Lakshman Jhula & Kedarnath temple, display boards of Char Dham, Uttarakhand Land and People, and Badrinath Temple created by children of all age groups. There were also Aipan artwork pieces on display along with power point presentations on Five Prayags and Char Dham Yatra, all prepared by children and youngsters. The children also sold UANA souvenirs to the attendees with full enthusiasm.

The evening celebration continued with people interacting with each other over delicious dinner with no hurry to leave as most attendees stayed over night in the hotel. Cocktails and DJ were sponsored by few patrons and the dance floor arranged by Mr. Anup Uniyal brought everyone together dancing to the evergreen melody of 'Bedu Paako Baara Maasa' and other songs until 1 am. The achievement certificates were distributed to praise and encourage participation and noteworthy accomplishments of children who gave up their play time to work diligently on various themes related to Uttarakhand and cultural program items.

This convention was a genuine display of teamwork and involvement by all participants young and adult alike, kind and generous patrons and donors, and selfless volunteers and members of the organizing committee who worked around the clock to make it happen. Most attendees, including members from Washington Metro/Virginia area, left on Sunday afternoon after having a breakfast get-together. This first ever get-together format provided community members a unique opportunity to more effectively meet and mingle with one another under one roof in this largest gathering of UANA members and Uttarakhandis in North America. UANA board and members sincerely appreciated and recognized the efforts and hard work of the 2008 convention team from NY in taking the lead to plan and make this event a great success.

UANA 10th Annual Convention (Appendix I)

Saturday, July 26th 2008, Poughkeepsie, New York

Dear friends,

It is with great sense of pleasure and pride that I address you today on the occasion of 10th annual convention of Uttaranchal Association of North America. As a representative of the Government of India, it is heartening for me to see our Indian culture and ethos thrive and flourish far away from the geographical boundaries of our motherland and as an individual, at a more personal level; it feels great to be here as it feels like a home away from home.

At the outset, I congratulate you on your landmark 10th Convention, an important occasion for defining new goals and reflecting on the progress made so far. I congratulate you for having come a long way and adapting to a new life style while retaining your own cultural heritage. I congratulate you for having your roots in Uttarakhand- a beautiful land in the lap of Himalayas and very appropriately called Dev Bhoomi or the abode of the Gods.

Before I talk about Uttarakhand, I would like to devote few lines to India as a whole because regional identities apart, one common thread that binds us together is our 'Indianness'. The overarching idea of a shared culture and shared values bonds us together. Wherever we live and work, this 'Indianness' is always with us and is reflected in our inter-personal relations, our values, respect for elders and work ethos.

India of today is a vibrant democracy firmly on the path of growth and development. The economy is growing at an impressive rate of over 8% per year. Economic growth, modernization and the pace of technology driven change are transforming our society at an unprecedented pace. India is today in a position to engage with the world in an unprecedented manner. Movements of goods, services, capital and people connect us more closely than ever to once distant societies. India is more linked with the world economy than it has been for centuries. Almost 50% of India's GDP is accounted for by the external sector. The rapidly expanding economy along with the booming consumer market and easy availability of skilled personnel has been instrumental in several American companies investing in India. In fact, the USA has been the second largest foreign direct investor in India. It accounted for 9.12 per cent of the total FDI inflows into India during April 2000-December 2007.

The economy is growing well. However, daunting tasks still remain. The two greatest challenges are poverty alleviation and inclusive development by sustained growth and bringing its benefits to all strata of Indian society. It is estimated that if we are to eradicate mass poverty by 2030, we need to keep growing our economy at 8-10% each year.

Uttarakhand, the 27th state of India created in 2000 has an important role to play in the overall economic growth of India. Just prior to coming here, I was in Haridwar and Rishikesh for about 2 weeks. The whole state is throbbing with activity and has taken off on the road to development and growth. Tourism, Hydro-power, handloom and handicrafts, floriculture and horticulture, biotechnology, food processing, pharmaceuticals, tea, bamboo and fiber development and higher education are some of the sectors showing tremendous potential. E.g. in case of tourism, Uttarakhand offers unique package of adventure tourism, winter sports, eco-tourism and spiritual tourism. In our power-hungry country, Uttarakhand has a potential of about 15,000 MW from hydro-power, a renewable source of energy.

There are tremendous investment opportunities in the State in industrial estates and growth centers, Special Economic Zones, development of theme parks, tourism infrastructure, development of new tourist destinations, airports, airstrips, roads and micro and mini hydro power projects etc. During my visit to the State, I came across many projects based on providing a holistic experience to the tourists including adventure, ecotourism, spiritual tourism encompassing ayurveda and yoga. Major Indian and foreign companies have already been attracted by the tremendous potential of the State and have started investing in a big way. Key investors include Hewlett Packard, Nestle, Britannia and Unilever among others. I would urge the businessmen present here to study the business environment and prospects in Uttarakhand, study the viability of their projects and consider investing in the State. The State government is very keen to attract investments and has granted many fiscal incentives and tax benefits to the investors. It is estimated that the State could consume an investment of about \$12 billion in next 3-5 years.

While market and profitability are the guiding forces for any investment, the Diaspora has a distinct advantage and affiliation for investing back home. The government of India realizes the value of this bond and has launched a number of initiatives to tap this potential. Annual celebration of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas and creation of a Ministry for Overseas Indian Affairs were the initial steps. Subsequently, initiatives such as Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awards, Pravasi Bhartiya students' scholarships, Know India Program and Overseas Citizenship of India have been launched to intensify our engagement with the Diaspora. In his address on the occasion of PBD this year, Prime Minister said, "We in India take pride in the achievements of the people of Indian origin in diverse fields of human endeavor in different parts of the world. It is our sincere desire to create a framework which will provide profitable opportunities for overseas Indians to invest in India's development. It is also our sincere desire to benefit from the vast reservoir of technological, managerial and entrepreneurial skills represented by overseas Indian communities. We seek to encourage in every possible way our links and our relations with overseas communities of Indian origin." He also announced upcoming initiatives such as establishment of a PIO University, Overseas Workers Resource Center, Council for the promotion of overseas employment, Overseas Indian Facilitation Center and Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has brought out a Handbook for overseas Indians interested in investing in India.

All this is an indication of the importance that India attaches to enhancing its linkages with the Diaspora.

I would now like to conclude by reiterating my good wishes for the community in all their endeavors. We, at the Consulate, are always there to facilitate your linkages, be it cultural, family or economic to India.

Thank you.

Dr. Anju Kumar, Consul (education), Consulate General of India, New York

[The text of speech by the key note speaker, Dr. Anju Kumar, Consul (education) Consulate General of India, New York]

UANA 10th Annual Convention (Appendix II)

Saturday, July 26th 2008, Poughkeepsie, New York

Before the start of the cultural program, the President, Dr. Bhandari, asked me, as I happened to be the senior most Utrakhandi (96 years) to light the Diyas at the start of the cultural program and also to say a few words of blessings to the Association. This came as a total surprise to me; however, I thanked Dr. Bhandari and the Ex-Committee for this honor and was overwhelmed.

Many people didn't know me, so I felt that I should give a brief background of myself. I said that I, Dr. J.P. Kukreti, was born in a village called Goil, some 20 miles N.E. of Haridwar in October 1912. I had an early education at Landsdowne, where my father was a prominent lawyer, a contemporary of late Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant, our first Chief Minister of U.P.

I graduated from the Allahabad University in 1934 where I had the good fortune of seeing firsthand eminent politicians of that era like Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Gandhi Ji, Dr. Radha Krishnan, Madan Mohan Malviya, Babu Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Bullabh Bhai Patel and a few others and even attended Gandhi Ji's prayers a couple of times.

The U.P government selected me for Veterinary Courses (1936-1940) at Lahore Vet. College. In 1962 I received my MS degree from the University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois. I taught at UP College of Vet, SC&AH, Mathura, up to 1968, when the University of Illinois gave me a teaching job. I taught up to the age of 73 and am now settled there.

Now turning to the Uttaranchal Association of North America, I listened with great interest to the speeches about the various projects on hand and the efforts to solve them. The task is hard, and the road is long. Funds and volunteers are needed. However, with zeal and enthusiasm of the members, the battle can be won. For any project to succeed, three Ds are necessary:

1. Desire—a burning desire to start
2. Dedication—with right decision and hard work
3. Diligence—perseverance to fulfill the task

I congratulate all the members engaged with the projects at hand, and I wish and pray for their success. My blessings will always be there for the success of the Association, and I wish it the very best.

In closing, I would like to again thank the Ex-Committee for bestowing this honor on me.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Jai Uttarakhand

Dr. J.P. Kukreti



Upcoming Events

• **UANA 11th Annual Convention**
Washington, D.C
18th July, 2009

Please stay tuned! Check www.uttaranchal.org for more details.

• **Tri-state UANA Picnic**
Johnson Park
Highland Park, NJ
6th June, 2009

Fun filled tri-state UANA picnic will be held on 6th June, 2009 at
Johnson Park near Rutgers University NJ. Timing 10 am – 5 pm

Executive Committee (ExCom)

PRESIDENT

Dr. Jagdish Bhandari
 (717) 271-8783
bhandarij90@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Sunil Kala
 (202) 345-2147
sunilkala@comcast.net

TREASURER

Mr. Vinod Jakhmola
 (703) 598-5889
jakhmola@cox.net

SECRETARY

Ms. Runjhun Saklani
 (917) 478-5958
runjhun@hotmail.com

UANA

Established 1998

10560 Main Street, Suite LL-1
 Fairfax, VA 22030
 Phone: (703) 273-7982 | Fax:
 (703) 995-4545
 email: info@uttaranchal.org