

## IBM starts operations in Lucknow

Global IT major IBM Saturday announced the commencement of its operations in Lucknow, adding that it would expand its business across Uttar Pradesh over the coming months.

'With Lucknow becoming IBM's first destination in Uttar Pradesh, we would soon be spreading out in the state. In the next phases, we will probably go to Agra, Varanasi, Allahabad, Kanpur and other important cities,' said Vivek Malhotra, IBM territory executive, global small and medium business (north and east).

IBM also proposes to spread its wings in 13 cities across India, including, Bhopal, Nasik, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Ludhiana and Madurai.

'IBM's operations in Lucknow will target various clients in the government, hospital management, banking, cooperatives and research institutes,' Malhotra said.

'We have entered an agreement with government agencies like the departments of revenue, irrigation and Uttar Pradesh Electronics Corporation Ltd, for providing IT solutions,' the official added.

Apart from providing IT solutions to small-medium businesses, IBM would also be taking up educational projects in far-flung areas of the state.

'Education projects are high on our agenda. We would be taking up such projects under IBM's corporate social responsibilities,' said Malhotra.

IBM educational projects would include assisting the state in setting up IT-enabled educational centres in remote places.

According to officials, villages would be short-listed within a few months for setting up such centres.

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