

SBI's financial inclusion initiative

Business Line: July 27, 2009

State Bank of India has joined hands at the national level with Kalanjiam Development Financial Services (KDFS) promoted by DHAN Foundation, a non-governmental organisation, 3i Infotec Foundation and India Post, to carry banking facilities to rural population in a big way.

Speaking to *Business Line* on the initiatives, Mr G. Ramanujam, Regional Manager, SBI, said in the Madurai region, the arrangement with KDFS would make the Federations of Kalanjiams, Vayalagams, Internet-based Village Information Centres, promoted by DHAN Foundation, become 'customer service points' of the bank. They will handle kiosk banking and biometric smart cards in the villages.

Operations have initially been started in 10 centres in Madurai district.

The 3i Infotech Foundation would soon start operations through kiosk technology.

The business facilitators/operative staff of these organisations, having required training, have opened more no-frill accounts and soliciting business for the bank. Currently, personnel of India Post is undergoing training.