



# CUHP CHRONICLE

The Mirror and Voice of the

## Central University of Himachal Pradesh

[Established under the Central Universities Act 2009]

# CONVOCATION SPECIAL — 2013

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## Editor's Desk

Dear Readers

First convocation of a newly established university is an occasion to rejoice just as in a family it is when a young child cuts teeth. It augurs well that this university could complete its cycle of first academic session laying foundations of healthy and glorious traditions. Students, faculty and staff toiled hard single mindedly with a focus to be part of this great institution in the making.

The great vision of the Vice-Chancellor that has been incorporated in creation of this university got manifested in many ways in this journey finally culminating into its first convocation. It was a proud moment that the chief guest of the first convocation was an internationally respected world

figure, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Noble Laureate and apostle of peace. This event also got us an opportunity to interact with the Hon'ble Chancellor, Shri Arun Maira, who with his presence added grace and distinction to the event.

It also marked the first time that meeting of Academic Council and Executive Council took place in Temporary Academic Block.

The stupendous success of this convocation marked by graceful splendor, glitch-free efficiency and punctuality sets a tougher target for all of us to work still harder and put up a better show next time.

What better opportunity there could be when we have to compete with ourselves and our past



**Professor Arvind Agrawal**  
Chief Editor

performances and excel in future. We become our own competitors.

With congratulations & best wishes,

**arvind agrawal**

## Convocation: A Memorable Moment in a Student's Life

University Convocations are like Harvest Gatherings. We all know how farming communities sow their seeds in good season, tend carefully the young plants as they grow and then, when the crop ripens, gather it and carry it, with high rejoicing, to storehouses, to be packed and sent into the world as food for the sustenance of the human race. This day

marks an important day in their lives and a significant milestone in their life's journey. Entering into this institution facing intense competition, the students pursued their academic goal with great dedication. Through hard work and dedication of students and teachers at high standards, the former earned their degrees and awards. It is a moment of pride for them

as much as it is for their teachers, parents and those who had any part in shaping their life so far. As a university event, the convocation is important not only because it is an annual event to confer degrees but also because it makes us to reaffirm our commitment to the values and ideals that the university upholds.



"Sitaron se aage jahaan aur bhee  
hain  
Abhee ishq ke imtehaan aur bhee  
hain  
Tu shaahin hai, parwaaz hai  
kaam teraa  
Tere saamne aasmaan aur bhee  
hain"

- from the VC's Report



"Koi kaarvaan se toota, koi  
badgumaan haram se  
Ki ameer-e-karvaan men na-  
heen khoo-e-dilnawazi"

- from the VC's Report

## History and Purpose of Convocation

In ancient India the preceptor (Guru) in the Gurukula (Educational System) used to instruct the students on their completion of their education certain injunctions as part of the convocation (final ceremony before taking leave of the Gurukula) which are as follows:

- Satyam Vada: Speak the Truth.
- Dharmam Chara: Adhere to Right Conduct.
- Swadhyayanma Pramadah: Foremost among your duties is to undertake swadhyaya (self study) i.e. to constantly pursue studies to enhance your knowledge insisting that learning is a life-long process.
- Matru devo bhava, Pitru devo bhava, Acharya devo bhava, Atithi devo bhava: Revere your Mother, Father, Preceptor and Guest as God.
- Act in accordance with the moral and ethical standards taught to you in the scriptures. What ever you share with others, do it with shraddha (utmost interest and involvement) and not without interest, share that which is for the good of others and society, that which is for the progress of the society and not otherwise.
- When in doubt always act in consensus with the learned, those who are well versed with the law and expected moral norms.

Convocation functions were held in the Nalanda and Taxila Universities. There is a famous reference which tells us about a very famous story of Chanakya, who on receiving his degree was asked by the Kulpati (Chancellor) to stay back as Preceptor in the university and share his knowledge with future generation of students. It was the practice in India that the best and the most knowledgeable students were absorbed as faculty to guide the younger generation of students.

Convocation functions were also part of the Greek tradition referred to as *eclesia*, meaning a congregation assembled for a special purpose. In Latin, convocation is translated as 'calling together'. Convocation is a tradition that has been set up to congratulate the students on completing their education and honoring them with degrees. The long gowns were the dress code of a bygone era but continue to be worn to feel connected to the past. The hoods that are worn are part of the culture which came from the hooded monks in churches who received their degrees for scholarship from the church. In Greek tradition the scholars wore wreaths and in Indian tradition they wore floral wreaths.

## From the Visitors Book .....

**It is my hope and prayer that this newly established Central University of Himachal Pradesh will produce many educated and dedicated graduates in the future in this 21st Century.**

*His Holiness The Dalai Lama*

**Congratulations for holding not only a wonderful convocation but also a memorable one.**

*Prof. Faizan Ahmad (Academic Council Member)*

*Director, Centre of Multi Disciplinary Research in Basic Sciences*

*Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi*

**The convocation was so perfectly organized that it was an absolute pleasure to be present. My congratulations to the university authorities.**

*Prof. Chetan Singh (Court Member)*

*Professor of History, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla*

## Convocation: A moment to Rejoice, Relive, Reaffirm, Regard and Receive

Flaunting that coveted black gown and mortarboard cap and posing for a photo-op, is a moment that every student dreams to attain and loves to cherish. Till the convocation day, students have to wait to rejoice these proud moments of their life. Convocation day is very significant as it marks the day when students complete their studies at the University and go for higher studies, job or entrepreneurship. It is a golden moment in their life which may not come again.

February 28, 2013 was the same unforgettable day for CUHP's First Passing out Batch. This institution is serving North India since 2010 especially in providing students quality higher education. This day was special as it was awaited by students when they could walk out of the hallowed portals of this university with a degree in hand. The moments were very touching as scores of post-graduates descended into the university to collect the parchment that sets them free to reach greater heights. Tears, smiles, loud cheers, formal handshakes and a few parties

marked the convocation day at their alma-mater. The students in their black robes with silver linings and graduation caps proudly held their degrees in their hands with happiness beaming on their faces. Students from all parts of the country came down to reminisce about the time spent with their friends during their university days.

The university was decorated like a bride and the ambience was very sombre in an aesthetically created pandal specially for this serene moment. Meanwhile, the formal convocation address made everyone glow. Students beamed with smiles of self-fulfillment, parents realized that their assistance, both financial and emotional—was worthwhile, and the faculty had the satisfaction of seeing their protégés grow. In the beginning, the Registrar, Shri. B. R. Dhiman declared the convocation open with the permission from the Hon'ble Chancellor. Then the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Furqan Qamar, read

the progress report eloquently. Luminary guests, H.H. the Dalai Lama and Hon'ble Chancellor, Sh. Arun Maira graced the convocation ceremony, blessed with their wise words and conferred the students with their degrees. Meritorious students were also awarded with Gold Medals.

Freezing this moment in time has a fervid effect. Although the moment of being honoured while getting the degree was ephemeral, it had an everlasting effect on every student. It filled the heart with mixed feelings comprising of fulfillment, sadness, anxiety and eagerness. bidding goodbye to the comfortable and secure life within campus and to get ready to march to the beat of the outside world. These last moments of convocation day were indeed the memorable moments for the passing-out batch. This occasion certainly inspired the batch of students who are still studying in this university to work hard so that they could also be part of such a convocation in future with pride and ele-



### From the Visitors Book .....

**It has been one of the most pleasant visits to a wonderfully well organized convocation.**  
*Prof. Yash Pal Kumar*

**I found everything was executed without any disorder. Student Community involved in execution of the programme was highly disciplined.**  
*Prof. Sudhanshu Bhushan (Academic Council Member)*  
*Professor at Department of Higher Education, NUEPA, New Delhi*

**Very highly impressed by the systematically monitored progress of the university. Everything was excellent.**  
*Prof. (Miss) Kamal Singh (Academic Council Member)*  
*Vice Chancellor, Amravati University*

## The Vice Chancellor's Report

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Furqan Qamar in his convocation address first welcomed the distinguished guests and talked about the establishment of the university. He congratulated each one of the 115 graduating students and their proud parents. Prof. Qamar expressed a deep sense of gratitude to H.H. The Dalai Lama for being the Chief Guest at this auspicious occasion. He congratulated and thanked him simultaneously for his acceptance of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (D. Phil., Honoris Causa) conferred upon him by the Central University of Himachal Pradesh.

In his address he spoke about the challenges that the university was facing in terms of getting clearances for land, being a newly established university. At the same time he mentioned the accomplishments made by the university in such a short span of time with the collective efforts of CUHP fraternity.

He stressed on the highest levels of transparency being maintained by the university in the selection process for both the faculty and students alike. He presented before the august gathering

that about 200 papers have been published by the faculty members and RD scholars in journals of repute which reaffirms the quality research endeavours of the university. He told that in view of its commitment to offer the best courses and exposure to its students the university has entered into MoUs with a number of research and academic institutions of repute.

Prof. Qamar explained that to keep the academic environment of the university live and vibrant several workshops, invited lectures, training programmes and interaction sessions were organized and are being organized, from time to time.

He also made note of the international visibility of the university through a successful international conference in CUHP within one year of its beginning and the international acclaims made by the faculty of CUHP. Towards the end of the address the honorable VC admitted that the activities notwithstanding, that we have just embarked upon a challenging journey. That the university has just made a beginning and has to go a long way before it could

seek credit for its accomplishments. He said that at this stage, we can only say that the first step that we took was, perhaps, right and in good earnest which enables me to stand amidst such an august gathering on the auspicious occasion of the First Annual Convocation of the CUHP.



## H. H. The Dalai Lama's Convocation Address

Member of Planning Commission and Chancellor of CUHP, Shri. Arun Maira, conferred the degree to H.H. The Dalai Lama, who was also the chief guest on the occasion. Delivering his Convocation Address, the Dalai Lama called upon the students to preserve India's ancient treasure of knowledge and combine it with modern education for a better future.

"Though modern education is essential for development, you should also treasure your traditional knowledge which is thousands of years old", H.H. The Dalai Lama said adding that modern education is oriented towards materialistic values and could only provide physical comfort instead of mental peace.

Maintaining that everyone on earth wants to lead a happy and sensible life, the Dalai Lama said there was a big difference in appearance and reality and the very purpose of education was to reduce ignorance and lead us towards reality. "I do pray and do analytical meditation everyday, but I think the affect must come from action not just from desire", he said. Addressing students who were awarded degrees, the Chief Guest said that they have reached a crucial level in their life and that it was now time to face the real world. "Life is not easy and it depends on yourself how you want to live it. Things will be more complicated now onwards and you will have to prepare yourself. If you take things for granted there will be a lot of disturbance in life," the

spiritual leader said.

Terming India as Tibet's Guru, the spiritual leader said that this country—the *Aryabhoomi*—has given the world some of the greatest philosophers and thinkers and some extremely sophisticated philosophical thoughts have developed in this part of the world.

Giving an example, he said that the concept of quantum physics, which the western world came to know in the last century had been described in the text of Nagarjuna which is almost two thousand years old. He said Buddhism was introduced in Tibet by the great masters from Nalanda University of India in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> century.

Concerned over the prevailing corruption in India, the spiritual leader said Indians were known for their values before independence. However, "after independence we gradually started losing our values such as truth and honesty. The symptoms are not good", he further said that the younger generation especially the 21<sup>st</sup> century generation and their teachers should pay more attention towards this. "You are the 21<sup>st</sup> century people and should make this century a place of peace, love and compassion," he said.

Expressing gratitude for the degree conferred on him, the elderly monk blessed the students and wished the CUHP all success in its endeavours. His very simple and heart-touching address was well received by the audience.



## SCENES BEHIND THE CONVOCATION

Soon after first batch of CUHP students passed out, the university started its preparations for its first convocation under the visionary leadership of its first Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Furqan Qamar. The University Ordinance was drafted in accordance with the University Act and approved by AC & EC. Various Committees were set up to make the requisite arrangements. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor himself supervised and conducted several meetings to ensure efficient and successful organization of the convocation. Prof. Yoginder S. Verma, Shri B. R. Dhiman and Prof. Arvind Agrawal were made overall in charge of the Committees to make the arrangements. They were ably assisted by very hard working and enthusiastic team that comprised of Dr. Arbind Jha (Stage Committee); Dr. OSKS Sastri (Venue Management Committee) ably supported by Dr. Asutosh Pradhan, Dr. Manoj Saxena, Dr. Bhagwan Singh;

Prof. I.V. Malhan looked after Catering Committee; Prof. H.R. Sharma took care of the Cultural Committee; Transportation and Parking Committee; Prof. K.B. Joshi managed Degree distribution; Dr. Manukonda Rabindranath and Dr. Pradeep Kumar Nair looked after Media and Invitation Committee; Dr. Roshan Lal Sharma handled Discipline Committee and National Anthem group and Dr. Sanjeev Gupta and Dr. Anupam Sharma ensured beautification of the campus through Campus Beautification Committee. All the teaching and non-teaching members of CUHP community worked day and night to make this programme a grand success. This programme could have not succeeded without the whole hearted efforts of our student volunteers.

The Citation for the Chief Guest and the Annual Report for the Convocation were

drafted and got printed. Vendors to prepare ceremonial robes for the convocation were invited and after multiple careful deliberations, the decisions were made. The solution to the problem of lack of infrastructure was sought in the erection of temporary water proof pandaal to be created in the open ground in front of TAB. New and innovative ideas were put in place to make this event very aesthetically elegant. The relentless synergy of all made even weather Gods to smile on the Convocation day with a pleasant sunny day and keeping rain clouds at bay. The sitting arrangements for about 1200 guests were made along with full parking and security arrangements.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor formally recognized and appreciated efforts of every teaching and non-teaching members of CUHP fraternity in a graceful function on March 22, 2013. He exhorted everyone to put in their best to make the second convocation even better than the first one.



Convocation Pandaal in  
The making



Waiting for the Convocation  
to begin



## From the Visitors Book .....

**A perfectly planned and executed convocation, congratulations to the V.C. and all the team. I was proud and honored to be associated with this convocation and the team.**

**Shri Arun Maira**  
(Chancellor & Court Member)  
Member, Planning Commission

**Congratulations on the very success of the convocation. I am privileged to be associated as member of Academic Council with this potentially GREAT university.**

**Prof. Vinaya Chandra Pande**  
(Academic Council Member)  
Professor of History, University of Allahabad

**A well planned and well executed programme. Glad to have taken the trouble to come all the way from Delhi just to attend it.**

**Mrs. Arshi Qamar, Educationist**

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Committed to Inclusive  
Access and Excellence in  
Higher Education

[www.cuhimachal.ac.in](http://www.cuhimachal.ac.in)

*Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP) was established under the Central Universities Act 2009 enacted by the Parliament of India. The University became functional from 20th January 2010 with Professor Furqan Qamar assuming the charge as the first and founder Vice Chancellor of the University*

*Standing for Inclusive Access and Excellence in Higher Education, it is a multidisciplinary university. The Vision document of the University provides for seventeen different schools with five to six Departments and two to three Centres in each school. Of these eleven Schools and eighteen Departments and two Centres have been made functional*

*The University has adopted comprehensive choice based credit system which mandates students to accumulate at least 30 percent credits from departments other than those in which they major. This makes all programmes of studies inter-disciplinary and all students study in an interdisciplinary environment. All programmes of studies are based on semester system and the University follows comprehensive continuous internal assessment and Grading System*

*The University is to have its headquarter in Dharamshala and two distinct campuses located in Dharamshala and Dehra, both in the picturesque Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh. The land for both the campuses have been identified and allotted to the University and proposal for FCA clearance is at the advanced stages of progress. Following which, the land is likely to be transferred to the University and construction of permanent campuses shall begin.*

*In the Interim, the university has commenced its academic activities from the Temporary Academic Block (TAB) located at Shahpur in the Kangra District. The Headquarter of the University is located at Camp Office at Dharamshala.*

## Award Recipients at the Convocation: The Gold Medalists



**Mr. Chiranjit Bannerjee**  
MBA (General)



**Ms. Shivani Mahajan**  
MBA (IFS)



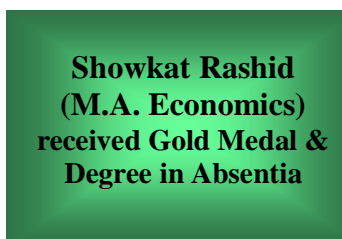
**Mr. Saurabh Vasudev**  
MBA (ED)



**Ms. Anjali**  
Master of Social Work



**Ms. Kumud**  
M.Lib.Sc.



**Mr. Showkat Rashid**  
M.A. Economics