



CUHP CHRONICLE

The Mirror and Voice of the

# Central University of Himachal Pradesh

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## Editor's Desk

Dear Readers

It was a historic moment for the Central University of Himachal Pradesh when its Chancellor Shri Arun Maira came to the university and addressed the faculty and students. The dialogical mode of his address in which he raised questions of social relevance to the young faculty and students in particular was the evidence of the value system he believes in as a Member of the Planning Commission of India.

The university held its First Convocation with much resolve in which Gold Medals were awarded to the toppers of various departments, degrees were

awarded and distributed to the passed out students of the first batch. The presence of His Holiness The Dalai Lama lent an aura of peace and sacredness to the whole course of the events during the Convocation. A Book Exhibition was also held during the convocation that added a unique academic flavor to the Convocation.

February witnessed the holding of various events in the university in the form of the participation of students in the fight against violence against women in a programme titled "One Billion Rising" of the university under the leadership of the Dept. of Social Work. Vasant Panchami was also celebrated by the students in which the V.C., faculty & students



**Professor Arvind Agrawal**  
Chief Editor

participated in Kite Flying. The university also put in place LAN for providing efficient networking of its computing and internet facilities.

With best wishes,

*arvind agrawal*

## Chancellor Meets Students and Faculty of CUHP

Shri Arun Maira, Chancellor of Central University of Himachal Pradesh and Member, Planning Commission, Government of India addressed the students and faculty of the university during the 'Meet the Chancellor' programme. Vice Chancellor of Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Prof. Furqan Qamar welcomed him. Deans and Heads of the various departments, faculty members and students of the university were present in the function. Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Chancellor



said that government institutions should reclaim the trust of the people since citizen's lack of trust in governance institutions is the major factor that has struck the planning and implementation systems of the country. Stressing on the need to encourage smaller

enterprises, he said they are more democratic, less risky, more sustainable and also more employment generating. "India will never become a super power if we always think in terms of large army and large GDP only", he said. Urging the faculty and students of the university to engage in discussions about how to shape the future of the country, he interacted with the gathering regarding their responses about the issues of planning and implementation in the country.



Vasant Panchami Celebration

## Vasant Panchami Celebrated

The Central University of Himachal Pradesh celebrated the festive occasion of *Vasant Panchmi* on 14 February 2013. On this occasion a kite festival, named "*Udbhav*" was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Furqan Qamar. On this occasion Pro-Vice-Chancellor Yoginder Singh Verma, Dean of Students Welfare Prof. H.R. Sharma, faculty members, non-teaching

staff and students participated with full fervor and gaiety. To mark this auspicious occasion Vice Chancellor Prof. Furqan Qamar participated in kite flying event. Students of different departments participated with full vigor, energy and enthusiasm. A spirit of brotherhood and competition was ubiquitous, as students were trying fly their kites high in the sky. The zest and zeal



was increased as they were trying to cut the thread of other kites soaring high in the sky.



The Dalai Lama being conferred with the *Honoris Causa* doctorate



## 1st Convocation of CUHP Held (SPECIAL ISSUE of this News letter on Convocation coming soon)

The Central University of Himachal Pradesh held its very first Convocation on 28 February 2013. His Holiness the Dalai Lama was the Chief Guest of the very first convocation. Arun Maira the Chancellor of CUHP, Members of the Executive Council, Members of Academic Council, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Yoginder Verma, faculty members and staff attended the glittering function in the company of dignitaries from various prestigious academic institutions, and the post graduating students. Within a short duration

of two years, the university could manage to hold its first Convocation in which 115 students of the first batch i.e. 2010-2012, were conferred degrees. Also a total number of six gold medals were awarded to the students of different streams.

On this occasion the Dalai Lama was also honoured with the honorary degree of doctorate by the Chancellor of Central University of Himachal Pradesh. Chancellor of the university appreciated the efforts of the Vice Chancellor,

faculty members and students to make this grand celebration a success. The Convocation ended with degree holders flying their caps high in the sky together and by passing a message to the outside world that 'yes we are ready for you and we are coming'.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama in his address to new degree holders said "India is a great country which has a history of producing great minds. What we need is to preserve India's ancient treasures of knowledge and combine it with modern education for a better future".

## NEW FACULTY JOIN CUHP

The following Assistant Professors joined the School of Mass Communication and New Media:

1. Dr. Ram Pravesh Rai
2. Mr. Hari Krishan
3. Dr. Archana Katoch
4. Mr. Harsh Mishra
5. Mr. Kuldeep Singh

## Participation of MSW students in Pulse Polio Monitoring

MSW students of the Dept. of Social Work were involved in the monitoring of the National Pulse Polio Surveillance Programme in H.P. to ensure its effective implementation. Each student was deputed to a particular district as "External Monitors" to verify and cross-check the coverage of the polio vaccination rounds. Before the teams were dispatched to the field a Training Session was organized on 17th

January, 2013 to acquaint the 'monitors' about the task at hand. The resource person was Dr. G. P. Dwivedi, SMO, Shimla from World Health Organization (WHO). Overall the monitoring programme was successful.

Students were deployed from 20th-23rd Jan. 2013 and 24th-27th Feb 2013. Post IPPI two rounds of debriefing was organized

to discuss the effectiveness of the pulse polio rounds and gather feedback noted on the formats filled up during the monitoring. The participants were also provided remuneration for the services provided. Travel and accommodation was also provided. The students got an opportunity to gain on the job experience in a structured framework as per WHO standards.

## MOU signed between TBRL and CUHP

An MOU was signed between the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratories (TBRL), Chandigarh and the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala to establish cooperative arrangements towards strengthening Indian Higher Education and Research through mutual understanding, exchange of information and facilities as well as expertise available at CUHP in the School of Physical and Material Sciences and TBRL.

TBRL is part of the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Ministry of Defence, GOI. Dr. Manjit Singh,

Director, TBRL and the Registrar of CUHP were the signatories to the MOU from either side. Also present on the occasion were the Pro Vice Chancellor of the CUHP Professor Yoginder Singh Verma and the Dean School of Social Sciences Professor Agrawal

This is an effective measure to establish Defence – Academia Partnership for Research and Development as well as for Human Resource Development. This MOU will remain in force up to five years i.e. 2018 and it can be

extended on mutual agreement further.

As a part of the MOU, research programmes and conferences of mutual interest shall be taken-up jointly. This agreement enables to launch courses in emerging fields which may be equally useful to TBRL for its ongoing R & D programmes.

Such an effort will create opportunities for undertaking research in cutting-edge technologies in critical defence areas. The facilities of TBRL will be extended to carry out research and project work for PG, M. Phil and PhD programmes.



**TBRL Director & CUHP Registrar Exchanging the MOU Documents in the presence of CUHP-VC, Prof. Furqan Qamar, Prof. Y.S. Verma & Prof. Arvind Agrawal signed as witness on the MoU.**

## Book Exhibition held from 26th Feb. to 1st March in CUHP

The Central university of Himachal Pradesh held a four-day Book Exhibition at Temporary Academic Block Campus, Shahpur from 26th February to 1st March 2013.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Furqan Qamar inaugurated this exhibition by cutting the ribbon. Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Yogender Singh Verma, Deans, Heads and faculty members of all the departments were present.

In this exhibition 15 national publishers participated. This initiative was taken to enrich the Central Library of the University and provide the students and faculty with the latest books published in diverse disciplines. Books were on display on diverse subjects like Management Studies, Economics, Social Work, Social Science Research, Information Technology, Physics, Mathe-

tics, Computational Biology, Library and Information Sciences, English Language and Literature, Hindi Literature, Tourism Management, Environmental Studies, Journalism and New Media, besides general reference collections. Students of the university also benefitted from the exhibition since they too got a good discount from the publishers.



**Prof. Furqan Qamar in the Book Exhibition**

## One Billion Rising Campaign

The Social Work Society of the Dept. of Social Work organized the “One Billion Rising Campaign” in collaboration with Jagori Grameen, an NGO. As part of the campaign a rally was organized that started from the university premises and reached Shahpur town.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Prof. Furqan Qamar flagged-off the rally. One Billion Rising Campaign is a call given by the United Nations Organisation (UNO) in which 22 countries all round the

world participated. The aim of the campaign was to create awareness among the masses about zero tolerance to violence against women and girls for once and all.

Students of various departments participated in the rally and raised slogans against atrocities and violence against girls. Over 1000 students of different schools, colleges and CUHP of the region participated. The cynosure of the rally was when many locals too joined it as they

could identify with the gravity of the problem of domestic violence. The simmering anger against the perpetrators of Delhi Gang Rape case could be felt.

On this occasion Pro-Vice-Chancellor Yoginder Singh Verma, Dean of Social Sciences, Prof. Arvind Agrawal, faculty members, and students participated and marked their presence by taking oath to fight atrocities against women.



**Students participating in “One Billion Rising Campaign”**



## LAN Connectivity (NME ICT PROJECT)



Students surfing the web through LAN connectivity in the campus

The University has 1GBPS dedicated leased line provided by NKN (National Knowledge Network). The network is maintained by NIC (National Informatics Centre). All the Central Universities of India are interconnected and covered under a project titled “National Mission of Education Information and Communication Technology through LAN connections.

The objective behind this project is the effective utilization of internet resources, nurturing of scholars and learners, application of e-learning in education process, platform for sharing of ideas, techniques and pooling of knowledge resources.

The backbone of e-learning/education is connectivity because all learning material in the form of text, audio

and video can be made available to all, at the cheapest and most effective fashion, through broad band connectivity.

Under this mission, a proper balance between the content generation, research in critical areas relating to imparting of education and connectivity for integrating knowledge is to be attempted.

## CUHP students get job placement

**Winston Churchill**  
*“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”*

The students of Central University of Himachal Pradesh brought laurels to the institution by getting placed in different national and international organizations. A total number of forty nine students got placed from various departments of the university including management, social work, library science, and

economics. Students joined many renowned organizations including Hero Moto Corp, HDFC, Bank, Bharti Airtel, Pepsi, National Institute of Food Technology and Entrepreneurship, Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai; RNF Technologies, HIS global inside, Transport Corporation of India, Sukhjinder Group of

Institutes, Pathankot; Ambedkar University Delhi, Integrated Institute of the Rural Development Shimla SEL, IIHMR, Shimla, Red Cross Society, Pragya and many more NGOs. They joined Organizations as Senior Engineers, Assistant Professors, HR executives, field investigators, Programme officers and many other reputed positions.

## Screening for Cultural Programme



Students performing in the dress rehearsals

The university would be holding its annual function on the following day of the First Convocation to be held on 1st March 2013. Cultural items which include Solo Singing, Duet Singing, Solo Dance,

Group Dance, Poetry Recitation and Skit, were organized by the cultural committee of CUHP on 15-02-2013.

It was with the purpose of selecting appropriate candidates who will be

trained afterwards to perform on the occasion of CUHP’s first Convocation. Large number of students volunteered to participate in these events. First, Second, and Third positions in various events were announced.

## TRAINING AND PLACEMENT CELL: INITIATIVES IN FEBRUARY-2013 BLOOMBERG APTITUDE TEST (BAT) CONDUCTED FOR THE MANAGEMENT STUDENTS

On February 13, 2013 the Training and Placement Cell of the University hosted the Bloomberg's team Mr. Bibin Babu, Ambassador – Bloomberg University Relations, who visited CUHP to conduct the "Bloomberg Aptitude Test" to assess the Financial Knowledge Skills and facilitate the placement of Management Students. This was the first ever online test conducted in the University. Students registered themselves and logged into the Bloomberg's portal to appear for the test. Around 120 students from MBA first and second year appeared for the aptitude test based on eleven different skills and career skill based parameters like

Investment Management, Financial Markets, Ethical and Situational Judgment, Economics, Verbal Skills, Maths, Modeling, Corporate Valuation etc. This aptitude test formed the basis on which the students will be called for Job Fairs or Placements or direct placement at Bloomberg on the basis on their BAT score. CUHP is the first university in Himachal Pradesh selected to provide students with the opportunity to take aptitude test developed by the Bloomberg Institute for those interested in considering careers in finance and related industries. The Bloomberg Assessment Test (BAT) enables students to showcase their abilities in

areas ranging from economics and analytical reasoning to situational judgment and verbal skills, to major institutions throughout the world. The exam is open to students who are looking for internship or jobs in areas such as finance or consulting or just want to measure their competitive strengths and weaknesses in a range of parameters.

The test results provide considerably more insights into a student's skills and abilities than a resume. Recruiters can search the database to find students who have strengths in areas of particular interest to them.

The students with good scores will be called for the further recruitment process.



**Students appearing the Bloomberg Aptitude Test (BAT)**

## NIIT'S "NIITAT" Aptitude Test Conducted

On February 18, 2013, NIIT Dharamshala conducted an All India aptitude test in the University under the aegis of Training and Placement Cell. Mr. Rajesh Rana, Center Head NIIT, Dharamshala visited the university with his team and briefed

the Students about the relevance of "NIITAT" in knowing the individual aptitude score on the National basis, a week before the test was conducted. A nominal fee of INR 100 was collected from the students who wanted to appear for the test.

Second year students from across the disciplines with the majority of Management and IT students appeared for the test in the anticipation of attaining a fair score at the National level, to suffice their entry to big Job Fairs.



## Dr. Ambrish Mahajan– Joins as Dean School of Life Sciences



**Dr. Ambrish Mahajan**

Dr Amrish Kumar Mahajan joined the Central University of Himachal Pradesh as Dean, School of Life Sciences. Dr Ambrish Kumar Mahajan started his professional journey from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun as a Scientist and was involved exclusively in research. He obtained his basic degrees from Govt. College, Dharamshala and professional degree from Jammu University. He worked on different aspects while in Wadia Institute and first assignments were 1986 Dharamshala

earthquake investigations followed by investigations of 1991 Uttarkashi earthquake, 1993 Latur Earthquake, 1999 Chamoli earthquake, 2001 Bhuj Earthquake, 2005 Kashmir earthquake and establishment of seismic network in Himachal. He has completed his Ph.D degree from Panjab University, Chandigarh and enjoys the distinction of having Diploma in Disaster Management from Geneva University, Switzerland. This has provided him an opportunity to apply his expertise in the field of disaster management. He has to his credit a sponsored research project of ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, a UNO Project) commonly named as RADIUS Project (Risk Assessment Tools for Diagnosis of Urban seismic Risk) to compute the seismic risk of Dehra Dun city. He has developed a methodology for seismic microzonation using Multichannel Analysis of Sur-

face Waves (MASW). He is the first to use MASW technique extensively for the benefit of the society and now he is regarded as one of the experts in India on MASW methodology inspired by the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World. Dr Mahajan has significant contributions in the field of disaster preparedness and mitigation by contributing to disaster preparedness and awareness. He has travelled widely abroad for sharing his research findings with international players during international conferences. Some of the places/countries visited by him are Geo-Forschung Zentrum, Potsdam, Germany; Tangshan and Beijing, China; Switzerland, France, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, Skopje, Macedonia, ITC, Enschede, The Netherlands, Kathmandu, Nepal, NORSAR, Norway.

## Meeting of the Academic Council & Executive Council

The 7th Academic Council and 10th Executive Council Meetings were held on 28th February 2013 just before the First Convocation of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, at Temporary Academic Block, Shahpur, District-Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

The main agenda of the meeting was to approve the distribution of degrees and Gold Medals to the students who secured first position in their respective departments. Besides this, the august bodies of AC & EC also approved conferment of Doctorate

(*Honoris Causa*) on His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Thus it paved way for the First Convocation of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh. It was first time that AC & EC took place at TAB, Shahpur (H.P.)

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**Committed to Inclusive  
Access and Excellence in  
Higher Education**

**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.*

## HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA: A PROFILE

His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, Tenzin Gyatso is the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso and spiritual leader of the Tibetan people. Blessed with phenomenal cognitive abilities and spirituality, His Holiness got a Doctorate in Buddhist Philosophy at the age of 23. In 1959, with the brutal suppression of the Tibetan national uprising in Lhasa, His Holiness was forced to escape into exile. Presently he is living in Dharamshala (HP), the seat of the Central Tibetan Administration in exile. In 1989, he was awarded the Noble Peace Prize in recognition of his non-violent struggle for the liberation of Tibet. He has consistently advocated policies of non-violence, even in the face of extreme aggression. He also became the first Noble Laureate to be recognised for his concern for global environmental problems. In 2011, he completely retired from all political responsibilities. He frequently states that his life is guided by two major commitments: the promotion of basic human values or secular ethics in the interest of human happiness and the fostering of inter-religious harmony.

