

# CUHP CHRONICLE

The Mirror and Voice of the

## Central University of Himachal Pradesh

[Established under the Central Universities Act 2009]

### Patron:

Prof. Furqan Qamar  
Vice Chancellor

### Chief Editor:

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## Message from the Patron

It is with immense pleasure that I present the very first issue of the university newsletter. Named and styled as CUHP Chronicle, it aims at updating the stakeholders and general public about the step by step development and progress of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh that has been established under the Central Universities Act 2009 as enacted by the Parliament of India.

Reporting on the current developments, the CUHP Chronicle is also intended to serve, over time, as a compendium to record progressive development of this university for the posterity to appreciate the challenges in setting up a Greenfield university

and the efforts that went into the development of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh.

In the process, the CUHP Chronicle shall also place on record the role and contribution that a large number of individuals and institutions would play in the development of the University.

It is an attempt to record the progressive evolution of the very first Central University that came into existence in Himachal Pradesh.

The idea of launching of this Chronicle is also to share the vision, mission and objectives of the University with all those who would be part of this great institu-



**Prof. Furan Qamar**  
Vice Chancellor

tion in time to come and thus be able to appreciate, identify and relate themselves with the larger institutional goals and objectives.

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## First Vice Chancellor assumes Charge

The President of India, in her capacity as the Visitor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, appointed Professor Furqan Qamar as the first Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh.

The name of Professor Qamar, who was then serving as the Vice Chancellor of the University

of Rajasthan at Jaipur, was recommended for the coveted post by a search committee comprising eminent educationists of the country including Prof. Bhalchand Mungekar, Professor Goverdhan Mehta, Professor Mushirul Hasan and P. Rama Rao.

The Committee had shortlisted

two other names besides Professor Qamar. The other two persons who were recommended for the post included Professor Ved Prakash, and Dr. R.K. Chauhan, who respectively held the positions of the Vice Chairman and Secretary of UGC. Professor Qamar assumed charge with effect from 20th January 2010



Vice Chancellor Professor Furqan Qamar with Hon'ble Union Minister for Human Resource Development Shri Kapil Sibal

## The Vice Chancellor reaches Shimla

Professor Furqan Qamar, after assuming charge as the first Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh arrives in Shimla on 29th January.

Declared as State Guest by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, he lodged in the Peter Hoff and made courtesy call on the Chief Minister, Professor Prem Kumar Dhumal and the Education Minister Dr. Ishwar Das Dhiman.

Professor Qamar had detailed discussion about the Central University of Himachal Pradesh with Ms. Asha Swaroop, the Chief Secretary of the State and also with Dr. Shrikant Baldi, the Principal Secretary, Education of the HP Government.

Talking to the media, Professor Qamar mentioned that, pending the decision about the location of the University, as per the decision of the Government of India, the University shall com-

mence its operation from the capital of the state and hence he shall set the balls rolling from Shimla itself.

However, he emphasized that his first priority would be to get the Central Site Selection Committee reconstituted and arrange its visit at the earliest so that the location of the university and selection of site for the permanent campus of the university could be finalized at the earliest.

## Location of the University Undecided Yet

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*Do you know a Man who was not a Child before? Do you know a Tree which was not a Sapling once?*

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While people of Himachal Pradesh have shown remarkable enthusiasm about the decision of the Government of India to establish a Central University in Himachal, the opinion about the location of the University seems divided.

There, however, seems to be a consensus that the University should be established at the

most appropriate location in the Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh. Kangra is the largest district of Himachal Pradesh and 16 out of the total 18 assembly constituencies of the state are from Kangra district.

The location of the University is to be decided by the Government of India on the recommendation of the Central Site Selection

Committee to be constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

The Committee had visited the state in 2008 and had examined all the possible location and sites suggested by the State Government and also indicated by people. However, the committee could not recommend any site for want of suitability



Himachal Pradesh

## University opens its first Bank Account

The Vice Chancellor soon upon his arrival in Shimla invited interest from nationalized banks with presence throughout the state to be the first banker of the University.

It was the Canara Bank who tool the clue and came forward

to open the bank account of the University on the basis of the letter from the Ministry of Human Resource Development conveying the appointment of Professor Qamar as the first Vice Chancellor and the Central Universities Act 2009.

The account was opened in the name of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh with the condition that the same shall be transferred to the concerned branch as soon as location of the university is finalized

## Genesis of the Central University

### Genesis of the University:

The Prime Minister, in his address to the nation on August 15, 2007, announced the establishment of a Central University in each of the states that did not have a central university so far. Subsequently, 11th Plan provided for the establishment of 16 new Central Universities.

Accordingly, the Central Universities Act 2009 (No. 25 of 2009) which received Presidential assent on 20th March 2009 provided for the establishment of Central University of Himachal Pradesh amongst others.

The University is funded and regulated by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The University became functional with the assumption of charge by the first Vice Chancellor on 20th January 2010.

### Objectives of the University:

Objectives of the University as given in the Central Universities Act 2009 are as under:

- To disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in such branches of learning as it may deem fit;
- To make special provisions for integrated courses in humanities, social sciences, sciences and technology in its educational programmes;
- To take appropriate measures for promoting innovations in teaching-learning process and interdisciplinary studies and research;
- To educate and train manpower for the development of the country;
- To establish linkages with industries for the promotion of science and technology;
- To pay special attention to the improvement of social and economic conditions and welfare of the people, their intellectual, academic and cultural development

### Salient Features of the University:

The Central Universities Act 2009 mandates the following salient features of the University:

- The University shall be open to persons of either sex and of whatever caste, creed, race, or class and it shall not be lawful for the University to impose on any person, any test whatsoever of religious belief or profession in order to entitle him to be appointed as a teacher of the University or to hold

any other office therein or to be admitted as a student in the University or to graduate thereat or to enjoy or exercise any privilege thereof;

- It may make special provisions for the employment or admission of women, persons with disabilities or of persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Caste, the Scheduled Tribe and the other socially and educationally backward classes of citizen: Provided further that no such special provision shall be made on the ground of domicile;
- It shall be the endeavour of the University to maintain an all-India character and high standards of teaching and research, and the University shall, among other measures which may be necessary for the said purpose, take, in particular, the following measures:
  - Admission of students shall be made on all-India basis strictly on merit adjudged either through Common Entrance Tests conducted individually by the University or in combination with other Universities, or on the basis of marks obtained in the qualifying examination in such courses where the intake of students is small;
  - Recruitment of faculty shall be made on all-India basis and Inter-university mobility of faculty, with portable pensions and protection of seniority, shall be encouraged;
  - Semester system, continuous evaluation and choice-based credit system shall be introduced and the university shall enter into agreement with other universities and academic institutions for credit transfer and joint degree programmes.
  - Innovative Courses and programme of studies shall be introduced with provision for periodic review and restructuring;
  - Active participation of students shall be ensured in all academic activities of the university including evaluation of teachers;
  - Accreditation shall be obtained from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council or any other accrediting agency at the national level;
  - E-governance shall be introduced with an effective management information system;

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

*While location of the University is yet to be decided, it commenced its operation from Shimla, the capital of Himachal Pradesh. The foremost challenge before the first Vice chancellor is to coordinate with the Central and the State Governments to get the location of the university decided at the earliest so that the land and site for its campus could be finalized at the earliest*

## The Vice Chancellor...A Brief Profile

Professor Furqan Qamar was the Vice Chancellor of the University of Rajasthan at Jaipur before assuming charge as the first Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh on 20th January 2010. Dr. Qamar also served as Adviser (Education) in Planning Commission, Government of India. Ph.D. (1989) from the University of Lucknow he completed his Masters (1981) from University of Lucknow in first Division and first Position in the University and did his graduation (1979) from the Lucknow Christian Degree College of the University of Lucknow in first Division and first position in the college and fourth position in the University. He stood first in High School and Intermediate examinations of UP Board.

Beginning his career as a Teaching Assistant at the Lucknow Christian Degree College (1981-1982) and later as Junior/Research Fellow (1982-84) at the University of Lucknow, Dr. Qamar was appointed as Lecturer in Jamia Millia Islamia in 1984, where he rose to the position of Professor & founder Director of the Centre for Management Studies. Professor Qamar did the Advanced Management Programme (AMP 2005) at the Clare College, Cambridge and has held many administrative positions.



With keen research interest in public policy in higher education, Professor Qamar has been actively engaged in research and has published in journals of repute on educational planning and administration, financing of education, cost savings and resource use efficiency in education and quality and excellence in higher education. Prof. Qamar has chaired and been members of a large number of committees constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), University Grants Commission (UGC), Government of Delhi etc.