



## University holds Student Council elections



Students celebrating after the declaration of council elections result at TAB

By:- Nancy Dutta

**TAB:** Students of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh voted to elect representatives to the Student Council during the elections held in the campus on 28th September. From 11 schools, a total of 32 candidates filed nominations for 20 posts of the student council which are filled based on elections. Among these, candidates from 8 seats were elected unopposed.

Among the schools where elections were held, School of Business and Manage-

ment Studies recorded a voter turnout of 83 per cent. Kritika Kapil, Pankaj Kumar, Vipul Sharma and Vivek Katoch won the student's verdict here. While Shabir Khan won the election in School of Life Sciences, Akshay Kumar and Sahil were elected from the School of Physical and Material Sciences.

Babita (School of Earth & Environmental Sciences), Ali John Singh Premi and Rishika Sharma (School of Journalism, Mass Communication & New Media), Anil Kumar, Manjul Ku-

mar and Ragini Malhotra (School of Mathematics, Computers & Information Sciences), Neeraj Sharma (School of Social Sciences), Ankit Kaushal (School of Tourism, Travel & Hospitality Management) were elected unopposed from their respective schools.

The election process was peaceful in the campus. Some of the nominations were rejected as they did not fulfill the minimum eligibility conditions for contesting elections or did not adhere to the time schedule of filing nomination papers. The remaining 20 slots in the student council are filled by students nominated from the Schools based on academic performance.

For this year's election, students of the newly started B Voc courses were also officially included in the election process. According to the election notification, the 47 students registered for these courses were included in two different schools related to their stream.

## Explore Himachali culture with films of our own: Sanjeev Rattan

By:- Akriti Mahajan

**Dharamshala:** "The film lovers of the state should make intensive effort to explore and unveil the beauty of Himachali culture through films of our own," feels Sanjeev Rattan, an independent film maker from Dharamshala. He was talking to *Voice* after the screening of his latest film 'Man de Pher' at the recent edition of Dharamshala International Film Festival.

According to him, Himachali culture is unique and full of potential from the point of view of a film maker. "The fact that it remains almost unexplored by any film maker offers immense possibilities for the future ones from the state", said he. Rattan, who has bagged Silver Lotus for his Dogri film 'Dille Ch Vasya Koi' at the 59<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards in 2012, is a native of Khaniyara Village located few kilometres from Dharamshala.

Passionate about marking a territory for Pahari films in the cinematic geography of India, he says, "I always wanted to make films in Pahari, especially to portray the folklore of Himachal Pradesh on big screen."

He is keen to cast local people in his films to enrich the Pahari flavour. "I prefer people from the immediate locality to cast in my films. Though they are non-professional, I train them in acting



Sanjeev Rattan skills for a month before we start the actual shoot", says he.

Rattan is channelling his efforts to help Himachali cinema grow into a recognizable regional film industry in India. "Sooner or later, Himachali cinema will flourish here. I am confident about that", Rattan says. According to him, film festivals like Dharamshala International Film Festival (DIFF) and International Film Festival of Shimla (IFFS) are providing opportunities to regional film makers.

In this mission to carve out Himachal's own film culture, Rattan seems to be not alone. The recently concluded editions of DIFF and IFFS witnessed many amateur film makers from the state screening their work. Himachali movies like 'Asmad', 'Papa', 'Saanjh' which reflected Himachali youth and its culture were screened at DIFF. Looks like Himachal's own cinema has started to bloom.

## The momo chef who serves steamed experiences

By:- Akriti Mahajan

**Dharamshala:** From the looks, it is the typical no-frills eatery in any North Indian small town; four benches cramped in two rows in a congested room, no magnificent interiors or sumptuous lighting. But, Nag View Café is different from the typical small town eatery. The taste of momos here has earned it a spot in the GPS maps of Dharamshala, making it a must-go spot for tourists visiting here.

Inside the dimly lit kitchen, Kripal Singh is busy watching the 'Kapil Sharma Show', all the while stuffing momos to be steamed. Seeing the rhythmic motion of his hands, it feels like they are being stuffed with his heart and soul, not just mutton chops.

Located on Khaniyara Road,



Kripal Singh getting ready to make momos at Nag View Cafe, Khaniyara it's the popular momo joint for the food loving tourists and locals in Dharamshala.

However, the café does not meet their many expectations, at least in case of space. It gets overcrowded when the four benched space fails to accommodate all the momo lovers queuing up. They line up outside for their turn, but the wait is worth, say Kripal

*Bhai's* customers. "The things that bring me to this place every time is the same incredible taste, hygiene, his humble nature and that 'no Bakshish' attitude", grins Sonia Sharma from Dharamshala, an ardent fan of Kripal *Bhai's* momos.

Though famous for his mutton momos and the fiery chilly 'chutney' they are served with, Kripal *Bhai* humbly offloads

all the credit to his Tibetan friend "Tushy" who gave him the idea of making momos. But does he have a secret recipe for these momos? "Yes", says Kripal. "I love making them and their taste evolves with the inspiration from my customers. That's what, I think, is the secret behind. Otherwise they are just normal momos"

For him making momos is his god, religion and life. He has been serving these special, piping hot momos for the last 25 years here. His theory is simple: "Cooking dil se hoti hai (cooking happens from the heart)." His typical day-stretches to 12-14 hours in this small shop, making and serving momos. It may sound tiring, but not for Kripal. He makes sure that each momo is in perfect shape, proper-

ly filled with vegetarian or non-vegetarian stuffing, with a balanced sprinkle of spices which triggers the 'fantabulous' outburst on the taste buds.

Gunjan Sood, who fell in love with these steamed experiences, confirms it. "I come here from Nagrota Bagwan on most Sundays with my family, just to have these extraordinary momos. It's been our weekly routine for years now", says he.

Despite his popularity, Kripal has no plans to expand his business. He is satisfied with what he has, and he considers the small shop his lucky charm. But anybody to take his legacy further? "Only if someone is passionate enough to put this much hard work and heart into it. That might take my legacy further", says he.



# Demonetization triggers mixed reaction in the campus



People lining up in front of an ATM at Dharamshala

**By:- Voice Bureau**

**TAB:** “*Kaffi din baad kisi ATM main paise mile hain, nahi to sab ATM band hi rehtey hain yahan* (Finally I have found an ATM with money after many days, otherwise most of them stay closed.)” claims Sakshi Tyagi, a media student, standing impatiently in a line at the SBI ATM in Dharamshala. Since November 8, such comments come free as you stand in the endless queues at ATMs and banks across the country.

Experts have written reams of newsprint on both sides of the demonetization decision as the ruling party and opposition have been holding war of words inside the parliament and outside. Bhakts and anti-bhakts have clashed on all spaces social media and elsewhere. However, public response to the decision, overall, has been a mixed bag. The campus also had its own gyan on demonetization

– right from top class punditry to plain ‘I don’t know’.

Surjit, a first semester student of the Department of New Media, acknowledges that the move is right to some extent, though the sudden decision made the middle and lower classes suffer a lot. Sandhya Yadav, a research Scholar from the same department appears to agree with that. “*Faisala acha hein, par tareeka galat hein*,” she said.

Krishna Devi, a non-teaching staff with the University reveals the issue she faced. “Standing in queues at the bank demanded a lot of time, it was difficult to carry out the usual routine”, says she. Will it bring back black money? “I don’t know,” she shrugged.

Priya Sharma, a first semester student of the Department of Mathematics thinks that the move is bringing out black money. However, it is indeed causing some problems. “The day after the

announcement, when I gave 500 rupee note in a bus, they returned only 400. Common people are being harassed for the crime of somebody else,” says she. Amit Kumar, a student of Travel and Tourism Department agrees that the move is really good, however, introduction of 2000 rupee note, was not very apt. “They should have introduced 1000 and 500 notes first,” says he.

Meanwhile, CUHP faculty from different departments contributed to the intellectual debate going on in the campus as well outside, on the issue. In an article published in *The Wire*, Mr. Indervir Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics & Public Policy argued that the move will create multiple effects including slumping of the informal economy, increase in the non-performing assets of the banks as well as bringing down the GDP in the upcoming days. In a discussion conducted in the campus, Dr. Amit Kumar, Assistant Professor from the same department, analyzed different scenarios of the move in a discussion held in the campus.

Despite all the differing opinions, speculation and the gyan around, the campus folk agree on one thing, nothing is certain. That is how the typical tea chats on demonetization end at the campus canteen these days.

*(Prepared by Raja Babu and Yasser Ayaz, with inputs from Suman Sharma, Kusum Sharma, Anu Sharma, Varsha Rani, Pooja Thakur and Diksha Sharma)*

# NTCA records more tiger deaths in 2016 than last year



A sub-adult tiger at Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh. (Image courtesy: Sumeet Moghe)

**By:- Sunil Kumar Mishra**

**TAB:** With just one more month to go, 2016 turns out to be not a very good year for the big cat in India, as the tiger mortality figure for the country stands at 78 already for the present year. It was 69 last year.

According to Tigernet, the official database maintained by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to keep track of tiger mortality in India, Madhya Pradesh tops the list with 24 officially reported tiger deaths during the 11 month period from January to November this year. Maharashtra, which secured second spot during the period, recorded 13 deaths.

The data indicates that at least 10 of the recorded tiger deaths were due to unnatural reasons like poisoning, poaching, electrocution or elimination by forest officials. Last year it was 13. However, the data for 2016 indicates that there is an increase in instances of poisoning.

Similarly, the reported incidents of seizure of tiger body parts across the country have also made a leap this year. According to data collected by NTCA, there have been 20 such incidents till November. It was just 5 for the yester year.

According to the latest estimate by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), India is home to almost 60 per cent of the global tiger population in the wild, with approximately 2226 tigers.

# “Doubling up as mother and father is a tough job”: A day in the life of a widow

**By:- Yasser Ayaz**

**Kathua:** At 5:30 AM, after *Azaan* is done in the Mosque, Parveen Bano gets ready for the *Namaz-e-Fajr*, her hands asking the Almighty to give the courage to survive till the next morning. Living in the small village Dewal in Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir, Parveen works as a non-teaching staff in Govt High School at Dewal and lives with her two boys and a girl after her husband’s death 14 years ago.

“I was 22 years old when god took everything away from me. I was left with a four year old boy and another toddler sleeping in my arms. Six months later the Almighty blessed me with a girl who would see her dad only in pictures and tales”, recalls Parveen.

Finishing the prayers, she immediately gets to kitchen to prepare breakfast before the kids wakeup. After dressing up her two kids for school before 7:00 am, she gets ready for the one kilometer walk to the school. On the way, she usually talks to her 20 year elder son on phone who is in Lucknow, working in a company. “My elder kid is the one who makes me realize that his dad is still with me,” says a jubilant Parveen.

In the times of turbulence, making the right judgment was not an easy task for her small family, especially where the right judgment has always been a



Parveen Bano at her kitchen garden

political enigma for the two nations and the people in between. “My husband was confused and got easily misguided by the terrorists. Though he realized the mistake soon and surrendered, it did not work out.” After surrendering, Parveen’s husband was appointed as Special Police Officer(SPO) in Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) by Government. For some others, he made a wrong decision. Parveen’s husband was killed by the terrorists in November 2002, accusing him of being an informer. “He paid the price for being on the right side”, she says.

Life was never easy for Parveen then on. “My in-laws left me a month after the death of my husband

as if I was also killed along with their son. Since then, they have almost stopped calling me or even caring for their grandchildren,” recalls Parveen. She left her in-laws house with her children a year after her husband died, moving into one of her brothers’ house for some time. “All the bad memories of the house where my husband was murdered and indifference of my in-laws, left no other option but to leave my husband’s house,” recalls Parveen.

The job at the school has been the proverbial straw that helped her to keep her small family afloat. She was appointed as a non-teaching staff in 2003 under the provisions of SRO 43 (a provision under which jobs are given to one of the dependents of service personnel after his death while in service). From 7.30 am when she reaches the school till 4:00 pm when she heads back home, Parveen does all the work which is supposed to be done by a non-teaching staff member. But the school bells are no signal for her to rest.

Back at home by 4:30 pm, she serves lunch to the kids when her village neighbors savor their evening tea. “Rest is something which you cannot afford when you ought to double up as a mother and a father”, says Parveen, hurrying to check out the crops in the kitchen garden before it gets dark.