Emu farm in Chattri attarcts visitors : Page 2

Students elect 20 members of first CUHP Student Council

In the first ever student council elections in the university, students elected 20 representatives to the Student Council body of CUHP on November 22, 2013. The elections witnessed 87.7% polling for 13 seats across 7 Schools of Study in the university.

No elections were held for two Schools (MBA and Physical Sciences) as their members were elected unanimously, whereas combined elections were held for two Schools (Humanities and Education) due to their low student strength.

Nomination papers were filed by 37 candidates – of which 8 were withdrawn and 2 rejected. Of the 27 contesting candidates, 6 were females and 4 of them got elected.

Mohmmed Atif of School of Business & Management Studies celebrates after his victory in the student council elections in CUHP. Photo: Arjita

Comprising 40 members – 20 nominated by the Academic Council, based on merit and 20 elected by the students - the council will be headed by the Dean, Student Welfare, Prof. H.R. Sharma. When asked about his expectations from the council, he said, "I hope that the members will help us build the CUHP brand-name." Commenting on the first elections, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Furqan Qamar said that he was pleased with the peaceful conduct of elections.

Handmade posters were put up by candidates across college notice boards for canvassing, and the 10 day long election process concluded with students voting by signing on a ballot paper.

The council has been formed with an aim to participate in the policy making decisions of the university. Improving the university infrastructure is a common reform agenda that most newly elected members will seek to address.

The 20 Student Council members elected by the students of different Schools are - Arvinder Kumar, Mohmmed Atif, Sahil Dhawan, Shivam Verma, and Sudhir Gulia (MBA), Arundhati Balouria, Poonam Sharma (Environmental Sciences), Manjeet Singh Bansal (Humanities + Education), Rajesh Badhawan (Journalism), Ashish (Life Sciences), Ankit Chauhan, Deepali Choudhary, Deepak, and Dipesh Bhardwaj (Mathematics, Computers & Information Sciences), Abhinav Nag, Nitin Rathi (Physical Sciences), Ariz Ahmad, Swarit Sekhri (Social Sciences), Nishant Thakur, and Surbhi Soni (Tourism).

Voice of the Student Council Members

By Arjita Singh

Only 4 years old, the CUHP is indeed a very young university. Its' newly elected Student Council body is the voice of the students for building a strong foundation for the university to grow and prosper. Introducing a canteen, making online fees submission system and building a strong placement cell is a common proposal by most university students for improving the university infrastructure. Here is what your representatives say about their preferences:

Arundhati Balouria, Environmental Sciences - Build a sound proof system in girls' hostel and introduce a proper passage from rooms to the kitchen in girls' hostel

Ariz Ahmad, Social Sciences - Introduce field work early in the course, organize more cultural events and change class schedule.

Abhinav Nag, Physical Sciences - Set up internet facility and put window curtains in their classrooms.

Study, Social, Work

By Varun Kaushal

Ajit Singh, an MSW student at CUHP, is a role model to take after, since he played several roles in life-from student to entreprenur to family man- to keep the game on.

After completing his graduation in B. Tech (IT) from the Kurukshetra University, Ajit Singh worked as a system administrator in Nalagarh for one year. He wanted to pursue higher studies but could not do so due to lack of funds.

Four years went by before he secured admission at the C.U.H.P. and decided to study again. To finance his education, he set up a small Photostat shop outside the university campus.

Ajit started with a small capital of Rs. 1.35 lakh - used mostly to purchase a single photostat machine. Being one of the only such shops in the surroundings, his services were used by most students from the nearby colleges and so the business went by well. He then started selling engineering books at a discounted price to H.I.E.T. students. Soon he came up with another novel idea - free spiral binding for more than 120 pages of photostat.

An MSW student, Ajit manages the shop for 4 - 5 hours in the morning and attends classes at the university later in the day. He is 32, married and has 7 members in his family.

Drug rackets use unemployed youths as peddlers in Dharamshala

By Rajesh Badhawan

Dharamshala, a small town located in the foothills of the Dhauladhar range, is a beautiful place that attracts national and international tourists every year. Tourists visitng Dharamshala to spend their vacations in this 'God's Own Paradise', bring in a lot of business opportunities for the locals. From hotels, to travel & tour packages, to food service – the local people provide everything the guests demand.

But what is most alarming in the last few decades is the growth of its underground drug business. It has tarnished the image of this tourist town for worse.

Watching the weed business grow in such fashion, it's hard to say if drugs are really banned in this country. Recently, several youngsters were booked by the police at a rave party in the city. Very common in upper parts of the town, such parties are difficult to monitor as they are held at secret locations and partygoers are informed through secret modes of messages.

Drugs like cannabis, opium and heroin are easily available in the surroundings of Dharmshala. The best source are the 'peddlers' - found in great numbers in the city. These peddlers are either drug addicts or those trying to make some quick buck.

Unaware of the consequences, many unemployed youngsters are lured into 'peddling' – due to high demand and great profits in the drug business. What attracts the youth towards this illegal business - unemployment or a high demand for drugs? Though the answer is unclear, it's clear that if things go unchecked, it will only get worse.

Mohmmed Atif, MBA - Reduce number of subjects taught in a course and hold more workshops and seminars.

Ankit Chauhan, Mathematics - Bring in more faculty and hold more workshops and seminars.

Ashish, Life Sciences - Establish a good workstation with softwares.

Rajesh Badhawan, Journalism - Organize a media festival and build a placement cell.

Manjeet Bansal, Humanities & Education – Well equipped gym, women cell and in-house doctor.

Nishant Thakur, Tourism - window curtains for the class rooms, placement cell and a functioning class room projector.

The Team

Ankit Mahajan	Ajay Singh
Rajesh Badhawan	Anshum Awasthi
Arjita Singh	Shailja Dhadwal
Abhishek Pandey	Sarathi Nath
Vasundhra M.	Neha
Ankita Devi	Mohd. Zubair
Varun Kaushal	Sahil Chauhan
Gaurav Mandyal	Sonia Mehta
Richa	Karan Pundir
Rohita	Ankit Bharadwaj
Mohd. Sharique	

Emu farm pulls crowd in Chattri village

By Ankit Mahajan

Gagan Singh's Emu farm in Chattri is a new attraction for the villagers. (Photo: Ankit Mahajan)

Gagan Singh's house has become a place of great interest for the people of Chattri, especially for children around the village. It's not that Gagan Singh is a magician who can take children for a fantasy ride or entertain them with his juggling skills. His house started attracting village attention for the last few months, when Gagan decided to build an emu farm.

From that day, his house is visited by almost all the villagers to see these long-legged birds. Children spend hours watching these birds running and playing around in the farm. They even bring food from their homes to feed these rare birds.

Emus are flightless birds native to Australia. The birds can be very productive for 25 to 35 years and can lay 20 to 50 eggs in a season. '' The birds are very responsive and need very less care. All they need is an open farm where they can run freely because they can run at tremendous speed", said Gagan.

According to him, the birds are very adaptive and can stay in very hot as well as in very cold conditions. Moreover, they show love and affection towards their owner.

"This trend is very new in the region, so usually people get surprised when they hear that I have invested almost rupees 5 lakh in this business.", said Gagan. For starters, there is reason to get surprised, since a pair of emus cost at least Rs. 20,000 in the market. However, its eggs fetch good prices.

According to Gagan, a mature emu lays at least 20 eggs in a season and an egg can fetch a price of Rs. 2000. Emu meat is low in fat, and the fat can be used in producing dietary supplements and cosmetics. "I am confident that I am going to get very good returns", says he.

Since its arrival to India in 1996, emu farming is picking up popularity across the country with a great rise in the number of farms. However, there are few cases in South India which are alarming for the new investors. Many investors in the states of Tamil Naidu, Karnataka and Kerala have lost staggering amount of hard earned money trying to set up emu farms. In short, Emus are interesting, but don't get your hands burned.

Open Library, Open Discussions

By Vasundhra Mankotia

An open library has been introduced in the corridors outside the C.U.H.P. library room. Here the legendry 'silence' can be broken - students can indulge in open group discussions without worrying about disturbing library discipline.

The sitting arrangement has a row of tables separated by partitions, for allowing some privacy. With adequate sunlight and fresh air, the new reading space provides a wholesome environment.

Talking on the new facilities in the library, Mr. S. C. Uppal, Consultant, Library Development said that the library has 23 Almirahs currently to store the books and journals. "Recently purchased study material will be added to the ex-

Students using the new open library space at CUHP. isitng collection of books soon", he added.

Though the new open sitting arrangemnet initiative by the university is welcomed by most students, some have to take a long U-turn to reach classrooms adjoining library. Can a remedy to the problem be sought to keep everyone happy?

'Tourism Week' celebrations conclude with 'Atithi Samman'

The 'Tourism Week' organized by the Travel & Tourism (T&T) Dept. concluded on 'World Tourism Day' with 'Atithi Saman' – welcoming of guests arriving from abroad by Travel and Tourism students at the Kangra airport.

The week-long celebrations from September 20 to 27 witnessed student participation from C.U.H.P. and also from other schools, colleges and universities.

Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Yoginder Verma in his inaugural speech said that the aim of the event was to bring sweeping change of attitude amongst the key actors in local, national and global tourism for achieving peace and sustainable development. Vice Chancellor Prof. Furqan Qumar was the special guest on the occasion.

The theme of the event - 'Tourism & Water - Protecting Our Common Future' - sought to address the importance of water in attracting tourism.

Various competitions like declamation, photo caption, rangoli making & collage making were organized on different days. As part of a tree planting & cleanliness drive, Travel and Tourism students cleaned the university surroundings and planted saplings. They also guided others about proper waste disposal and motivated them to follow suit.

Besides several awareness programs organized by the Tourism Society, a workshop was also conducted on 'Home Stay Schemes in H.P.'. State level Inter School and national Inter-College quiz competitions were also organised as part of the celebrations.

'World Tourism Day' is celebrated annually on 27th September to spread awareness about the importance of tourism, and its social, cultural, political and economic value.

Water coolers less accessible

By Gaurav Mandyal

It's very strange that the university has only 2 water coolers for the use of about 450 students and a staff of more than 100. Both coolers are located in the middle floor with less accessibility, especially for visitors.

As per sources, authorities are mulling over bringing more water coolers. Hope more water coolers will arrive soon!

FOMO - A new 'F' word for social media addicts

By Ankit Mahajan

It is late night and you are still scrolling down your phone keys to check the latest updates from your friends on FB. Next morning, before picking up the morning newspaper, you are frantically checking the same social networks for what you have missed out last night after going to bed. If you have a routine quiet similar to this, you may be a victim of FOMO-Fear Of Missing Out disorder, the latest buzz in the clinical circles of psychology.

FOMOs are restless people who are unable to stay away from their phones due to the temptation to constantly check for updates from their social media friends. Relentlessly shooting status updates to their friends on social networking sites is their major life cause.

As a student, FOMO can affect you in many ways. The worst is the loss of concentra-

tion in the work because the mind always wanders as to what one is missing out on the social media world.

The phenomenon of FOMO is directly linked to the frenzy about online social networking. Many people do not feel comfortable to go blah blah in public, but on these virtual spaces, they define themselves very differently.

One of my early classmates, who rarely talked to anyone in the class, was entirely different in her social media existence. It was surprising to see that she had about 1000 friends on Facebook. More amazing was her status updates and pictures on FB. She even shared her strange day to day routines regularly on FB. But if you look around, she is not a rare case. The take away is that social networking sites never show the real persona of an individual.

On social networking sites, everybody

wants to show themselves in great moods, and in even greater looking pictures. Nobody puts his/her dull images on these cybernetic social spaces. Dull pictures are brushed up to keep up their good image among the friends. After all, number of 'likes' matter, right?

No doubt that the social networking sites are the new way of socializing but they are not the real way. Approaching a person on a social networking site and in reality is totally different.

Social networking sites often restrict the social interactions of a person to his or her phone and phone friends. Such sites are a big hit, may be because we all feel very lonely in our real social lives. In a way such networks may give you a feel of togetherness, but it is important to control the involvement by limiting the usage. Let's not become victims of FOMO.