

11c

Report of the Site Selection Committee for the establishment of Central University in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

Date of visit: 1st September, 2016

The Government of Himachal Pradesh vide its letter dated 21.3.2016 has offered some additional land measuring 202 acres (82-82-73 hectares), making the total land about 748 acres (303-37-74 hectares), at revenue Villages - Sakoli, Patola, Kadiana, Kand, Bagiara, Up Mohal Kaswa and Salag, District: Kangra for North Campus of Central University of Himachal Pradesh.

2. Pursuant to the above proposal, the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt. of India, vide communication No. 42-24/2009-CU.III dated 8.8.2016 constituted a Site Selection Committee (SSC) with following members to inspect the above land offered by the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh and submit a report with its observations and recommendations for development of Campus of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh. The SSC visited the site offered by the State Government on 1.9.2016. The following were present during the visit:-

- i. Shri Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, Joint Secretary (CU&L), MHRD, Government of India.
- ii. Shri R.D. Dhiman, Principal Secretary (Education), Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- iii. Prof. Kuldeep Chand Agnihorti, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh.
- iv. Prof. Ashok Aima, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu.
- v. Shri Jitendra Kumar Tripathi, Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission (Representative of Secretary, UGC).
- vi. Ms. Kamal Preet, Conservator of Forests, Regional Office, MoEF, Dehradun. (Representative of AIG, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India)
- vii. Shri P.K. Agrawal, Suptd. Engineer, CPWD, Shimla Central Circle, Shimla.

The following officials were also present:

1. Shri Ritesh Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.
2. Registrar and Assistant Registrar, Central University of Himachal Pradesh.
3. Officials from Irrigation, PWD, Revenue and Water Supply Departments of the State Government.

3. The Vice Chancellor briefed the Committee about the present status, proposed developmental plans of Central University of Himachal Pradesh and the urgent need for developing its own Campus. Thereafter, the Site Selection Committee visited the proposed site situated at above mentioned revenue villages for physical inspection to ascertain the suitability of the land.

4. The total land offered is around 748 acres (303-37-74 hectare). It was informed by the Deputy Commissioner that out of it, around 686 acres (278-43-79 hectare) is forest land and around 60 acres (24-93-95 hectares) is government land.

5. The Site lies on Dharamshala - Palampur State Highway and is close to the periphery of Dharamshala town. The nearest point of the site is only 3 kms from Yol Army Cantt. The other end of the site is about 1 km from the famous Chamunda Devi Temple which is an important tourist spot of Himachal Pradesh.

6. Some part of the site, touching Dharamshala – Palampur road is almost at the level of the road, gradually rising to the hilly part where major portion of the site is located. Three relatively less sloppy chunks in the site were found more suitable for major construction. Many parts of the site are having trees. The site is interspersed with private land, which will have to be clearly demarcated and regulated by some 'land use master plan' to avoid haphazard development which may spoil the ambience and even create some undesirable situation in future. The State Government may be requested to acquire as much of this private land as possible to allow the University Campus to have a better planning and ambience.

7. The site is in close proximity to Dharamshala town which is well connected by road and air. Gaggal Airport is about 15 Kms from the site. Chamunda Marg Railway station (meter gauge) is only 5.5 kms from the site and the nearest Broad gauge Railway station is at Pathankot, about 100 kms from the site. Being in close physical proximity to Dharamshala town, this campus of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh will have access to all the amenities, facilities and services, including social infrastructure, requisite for its functioning and growth.

8. Good schooling facilities are available in Dharamshala town as good private schools as well as Kendriya Vidyalayas are available.

9. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College and Hospital at Tanda near Kangra is about 12 kms from the site which offers good medical facilities apart from District Hospital and many other private hospitals at Dharamshala.

10. Dharamshala, being a tourist town and District Headquarters, can offer reasonable job opportunities to the spouses of the faculty members of the Central University, a factor which has increasingly become important to attract and retain good faculty. Moreover, being a tourist town, along with McLeodganj, adds quality to life, which will again help in attracting good faculty.

11. The Committee was informed by the concerned departmental officers that there is no scarcity of potable water in the area and a gravity based water supply scheme can cater to the requirements of this campus which will have a sizeable student and employee strength in the years to come.

12. The Committee was also informed by the Irrigation Department officials that the site is not prone to floods and water logging.

13. In view of the fact that Central University of Himachal Pradesh is the only University established in 2009 where no land has been allotted so far for the establishment of its permanent campus, the Site Selection Committee is of the opinion that the site offered by the Government of Himachal Pradesh at Villages Sakoli, Patola, Kadiana, Kand, Bagiara, Up Mohal Kaswa, and Salag, District: Kangra is suitable for the establishment of the North campus of Central University of Himachal Pradesh due to its locational advantages. All the basic amenities like adequate water supply, electricity and adequately widened approach roads upto the university campus site shall be provided by the State Govt. at their own cost as per the policy of Govt. of India.

Sd/-

(S. S. Sandhu)
Joint Secretary(CU&L)
Dept. of Higher Education
MHRD

Sd/-

(R.D. Dhiman)
Principal Secretary (Edu.)
to the Govt. of HP

Sd/-

(J.K. Tripathi)
Joint Secretary
University Grants
Commission

Sd/-

(Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri)
Vice Chancellor
Central University of HP

Sd/-

(Ashok Aima)
Vice Chancellor
Central University of Jammu

Sd/-

(P.K. Agrawal)
Suptd. Engineer
CPWD, Central Circle, Shimla

Sd/-

(Kamal Preet)
Conservator of Forests,
MoEF, Dehradun