

SIKKIM EXPRESS

SINCE 1976

OF THIS LAND, FOR ITS PEOPLE

■ Good Morning Sikkim, today is SATURDAY, 24 MAY, 2025 ■ REGD NO. WB/SKM/02/2021-2023 VOL. XLIX NO. 140 ■ RNI No. RN 40962/1990 ■ www.sikkimexpress.com ■ ₹ 5.00



ICFAI University hosts cultural and academic festival ABLAZE 2025

JASWANT GAUTAM

GANGTOK, May 23: The ICFAI University, Sikkim, successfully hosted the annual cultural and academic festival, ABLAZE 2025, at the Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College Auditorium, Tadong, here today.

The event served as a vibrant platform for celebrating cultural diversity, youth creativity, and academic excellence, reinforcing the university's commitment to holistic and inclusive education.

Rural Development Department (RDD) minister Arun Upreti graced the occasion as the chief guest. He was joined by ICFAI University vice chancellor Dr. Jagannath Patnaik, Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College principal Prof. D. Purohit, and other dignitaries of the university.

A ceremonial lamp-lighting and the rendition of the ICFAI University Song marked the spiritual inauguration of the day's events, followed by a warm welcome address delivered by the vice chancellor.

On the occasion, the university felicitated

renowned street dancer Rakesh KC in recognition of his remarkable achievement in training 1,100 dancers to perform the traditional Chutkey dance, which earned a place in the Guinness World Records during the Statehood Day celebrations at Paljor Stadium here.

In his keynote address, minister Arun Upreti lauded the university's efforts in fostering a vibrant environment where education, culture, and community converge. He emphasized that events like ABLAZE are more than mere celebrations—they are dynamic platforms for nurturing creativity, building character, and promoting inclusivity.

He acknowledged that while academic rigor is the cornerstone of higher education, cultural engagement and expression are equally vital in shaping well-rounded individuals.

Upreti particularly praised the cultural performances, which included an elegant welcome dance, a lively Arunachali group performance, and a traditional fusion of Bhutia, Lepcha, and Nepali dance



forms—each a tribute to the region's rich ethnic heritage.

The main highlight of the day was the official launch of the university prospectus for 2025 by the chief guest, which detailed a range of new undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. programmes designed to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving global landscape.

The minister concluded his address by encouraging students to remain intellectually curious, take pride in their cultural roots, and pursue excellence in all aspects of life. He described ABLAZE 2025 as a compelling example of how academic institutions can lead the way in promoting innovation, inclusivity, and cultural pride.

The grand finale of the festival featured spirited student competitions in Group Dance (GD), Solo Song (SS), and Solo Dance (SD).

A fashion show titled 'Threads of Tradition' was also organized, where students reimagined traditional attire with contemporary flair.

This special presentation also paid homage to 50 years of Sikkim's statehood, blending historical reverence with creative expression.

A felicitation ceremony honored the winners of the ABLAZE 2025 competitions.

The university also recognized the efforts of student organizers and jury members who contributed to the event's success.

In a major announcement, ICFAI University Sikkim declared special fee concessions for students hailing from the Northeast region, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bhutan, and Nepal. Additionally, students admitted under the Sikkim Government Quota will benefit from an exclusive 50% tuition fee concession.