## Inauguration of the Pranab Mukherjee Chair – February 25, 2019

The Inauguration of the Pranab Mukherjee Chair was done today at Raj Bhawan in presence of Honourable Governor of Sikkim Shri. Ganga Prasad, Honourable Chief Minister Shri. Pawan Chamling, Chief Secretary Shri Alok Kumar Shrivastava ,State Chief Information Commissioner Shri C. P. Dhakal, Vice Chancellor Dr. Jagannath Patnaik, Registrar Dr. Ravindra Chettri, Dean Dr. Sudha Jha and other delegates from Sikkim, Delhi, Chandigarh along with few faculty members of the university. The Chief Guest Honorable Vice President of India Shri. Venkaiah Naidu could not make it to the function due to bad weather.

The Pranab Mukherjee Foundation has agreed upon setting up the "Pranab Mukherjee Chair for Sustainable Development, Research, Skill Advancement and Education" at The ICFAI University, Sikkim and has been launched with the objective of promoting sustainable development, research and consultancy projects to strengthen democracy and promote peace harmony and happiness in the North East region of India. This initiative will support in creating and dissemination of innovation, knowledge and novelty that will improve the quality of life in rural and semi-urban areas of Sikkim and North-East Region through skill development, research and education. This Chair will develop Sikkim in sustainable development and bring industries and academia together for sustainable development. The motive is to maximize the human capital resources.

This Chair is first initiated in Sikkim and will be spread in other parts of North East. The prelaunch was held in Delhi in presence of Hon'ble Pranab Mukherjee on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The Vice-Chancellor of The ICFAI University Sikkim, Dr. Jagannath Patnaik gave a speech welcoming all the guests and delegates and mentioned about the boost this will give in building future leaders through proper skill development, mentoring and capacity building.

The ICFAI University Sikkim has also lengthened its diversity towards partnership and collaboration with ASSOCMMOU (New York State University), National Skill Development Corporation NSDC, Indira Gandhi National University for Tribal Amarkantak, Skill Development Partnership with Apollo Group, Times Foundation and Maryland State. We are also in negotiations with other countries in Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Chili, Ghana for partnerships in sustainable development. The Chair will support in recognizing the challenges and opportunities in this changing world of ours.

The programme ended with thanksgiving speech by Dean of students, Dr. Sudha Jha.





