

## 79th Independence Day Celebrations at ICFAI University Sikkim and Inauguration of the Veergati Roll of Honour

Dated 15 Aug 2025



On the auspicious occasion of India's 79th Independence Day, ICFAI University Sikkim held a grand celebration that not only commemorated the freedom of the nation but also honored the indomitable spirit of the bravehearts from the state of Sikkim who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. This year's event, themed "Veergati Ko Naman," took place at the N. J. Yasaswy Auditorium on August 15, 2023, and was marked by profound tributes, reflections on national pride, and cultural programs that united the university community in a shared purpose.

The day commenced with the ceremonial hoisting of the National Flag by Ms. Muskan Kumari, a third-semester student from the BCA program and a member of the National Cadet Corps (NCC). Her participation signified not only the elevation of the flag but also the rising spirit of patriotism among the younger generations. As the colors of the flag unfurled against the backdrop of the clear blue sky, it served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters, invoking a deep sense of pride among all attendees.

The event was graced by the presence of prominent university officials, including Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. Jagannath Patnaik and Hon'ble Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Hemant Panda, along with the Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members, students, and non-teaching staff. Their collective participation underscored the university's commitment to fostering a spirit of nationalism within the education system.

Dr. Jagannath Patnaik, in his address, eloquently articulated the significance of freedom and the responsibility borne by each generation to honor the memories of those who fought for it. He remarked, "Independence is not merely a date on the calendar; it is a reminder of our heritage, our struggles, and our aspirations as a nation. It is imperative that we educate our youth about the essence of liberty and the importance of giving back to society." His words resonated deeply with the audience, emphasizing the education's role in shaping responsible citizens who actively contribute to the nation's endeavor for progress.

A poignant highlight of the celebrations was the inauguration of the "Veergati Roll of Honour," a permanent tribute honoring the brave men and women from Sikkim who laid down their lives

in service to the nation. This endeavor is a testament to the university's profound respect and gratitude towards these heroes, ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten. Hon'ble Justice (Retd.) S. P. Wangdi, the Chief Guest, delivered an inspiring address that reiterated the values of courage, sacrifice, and dedication. His presence lent gravitas to the occasion, reinforcing the importance of remembering our heroes.

The event also included the presentation of Lifetime Achievement Awards to several distinguished individuals for their exemplary service and contributions. Recipients included Major General M. S. Rathore, Shri Sunil Kumar, DIG (Second-in Command), Shri Sanjeev Kumar Singh, DIG, ITBP, Prof. (Dr.) Swati Akshay Sachdeva (Professor, Sikkim University), Smt. Kavita Telang (Heartfulness Meditation Centre) and among others. These awards celebrate not only personal achievement but also embody the spirit of dedication to the nation's service.

The Award of Honour for Global Distinction was conferred upon Smt. Komal Gurung of Tapashree Dance Academy, while the Youth Icon Award in Music was presented to Smt. Arpana Acharya, 3rd Runner-Up of Voice of Nepal Season 6.

The festive atmosphere was enhanced by cultural performances, featuring a dance recital by the Tapashree Dance Academy and a heartfelt song by Smt. Arpana Acharya, the 3rd Runner-Up of Voice of Nepal Season 6. These performances enriched the event, evoking emotions of pride and remembrance among the attendees.

Concluding the solemn yet celebratory event, Dr. Rohit Rathi, Registrar, extended a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants, particularly the defence personnel and senior government officials who attended.

As ICFAI University Sikkim ushers in a new academic year, it remains unequivocally dedicated to nurturing civic responsibility and instilling a sense of national pride among its students, ensuring that the spirit of independence and sacrifice continues to thrive within the academic community.