

## **Dr C Rangarajan inaugurates PhD Program in Development Studies and Public Policy for Working Professionals**

The inaugural ceremony for the PhD Program in Development Studies & Public Policy took place on Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 2025 at the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education Campus in Hyderabad under the auspices of the ICFAI School of Social Sciences. The inaugural address was delivered by the Chancellor of the institution, Dr C Rangarajan, former Governor, RBI. The Guest of Honour was Dr Sameer Sharma, former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The function was presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the institution, Dr LS Ganesh. It was attended by the scholars enrolled in the program which is intended for working professionals.

Welcoming the scholars, Dr Ganesh highlighted the importance of research studies for working professionals due to the difference that exists between academic research and project-based research.

The Director of the School Dr CS Shylajan briefed the enrolled scholars about the features of the program which was being inaugurated.

Dr C Rangarajan elaborated the approach being followed in Research Studies on the campus. He mentioned that very few institutions across the globe combined domain knowledge with data-driven analytical skills. There is a need to apply updated domain knowledge in every sphere of Development Studies. He particularly emphasised the unique structure of this PhD program. He mentioned that because knowledge is expanding very fast in this area of learning and practice, the structure of the program has to be deliberately made challenging for the enrolled scholars. Development Studies, according to him, is multi-disciplinary in nature. It relates to the other existing disciplines like Economics, Political science and Statistics. Political science enables one to understand how the benefits derived from the application of the Principles of Economics are distributed in society. He further underlined the need for relating these studies to other basic disciplines like Statistics. About Public Policy Dr C Rangarajan mentioned that it shares a very close relationship with Development Studies. Citing an example from the education sector, he explained to the audience as to how public policy outcomes have qualitative elements to them. He suggested that scholars need to go beyond what is taught in the classrooms as part of course work for the program. Dr C Rangarajan remembered his association with the late Dr Manmohan Singh for his vision and courage as a practitioner of Public Policy, who was well equipped with academic proficiency.

Later Dr Sameer Sharma, exhorted the Scholars to take to the Program with zest and enthusiasm for learning with an open mind. He shared with them his experiences as a PhD Scholar during his tenure as a civil servant.

The former Vice-Chancellor Prof J Mahender Reddy explained the unique features of Doctoral studies at the institution for the last 2 decades.

Towards the end, the Dean of ICFAI School of Social Sciences Dr Tamma Koti Reddy proposed a vote of thanks indicating the hard work on the part of faculty and administration which went into the launch of this program











