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ICFAI University and CDAC take up Joint project on Kokborok language

Agartala, January 19:

The ICFAI University Tripura and Centre for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC)-Kolkata today jointly organized a seminar on “Machine Translation of Kokborok Language.” The seminar was inaugurated at Kamalghat Campus of University this morning by Jahar Debbarma, the Member of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council.

Col (Retd.) Ashit Kumar Nath, the Executive Director of CDAC and Dr. Amit Choudhuri, the Regional Head of CDAC graced the seminar as key note speakers while Prof. Biplab Halder, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of ICFAI University Tripura presided over the seminar.

The ICFAI University and CDAC have in a joint project initiative primarily developed a software, which has different features for machine translation of Kokborok words. As communicated by CDAC speakers at the seminar, the joint developers would constantly work on adding new features in due consultation with Kokborok language experts and researchers.

Mr. Jahar Debbarma in his speech thanked the organizers for conducting the seminar on such a date of historic importance since Kokborok language got the status of government language on January 19, 1979. He put forward some inner aspects of Kokborok language where translation of some words is really difficult.

Mr. Debbarma suggested the software developers to consult and confirm with tribal language researchers before incorporating the meaning of different words. He also expressed deep satisfaction when CDAC officials informed that they were planning to develop Kokborok-English dictionary.

Col (Retd.) Ashit Kumar Nath, the Executive Director of CDAC, in his key note address said that the software, once fully ready, would play a vital role on better exchange of Kokborok language and tribal culture between people of Tripura and mainland states. He expressed concern saying, most of the good works were not highlighted and understood for lack of language understanding between executors and beneficiaries.

Prof. Biplab Halder, the Pro Vice Chancellor of ICFAI University, in his welcome address reiterated that the University was committed to complete development of Kokborok language besides its basic object of imparting high quality placement oriented professional educational programs. He also informed that the University had decided to introduce certificate course on Kokborok language from the next academic session.