



THE PINE CHRONICLE

News, Views and Creative Expressions

Volume I, Issue no. 3, July 2018

ABOUT NUKSA

Nuksa The Pine Chronicle is the monthly news magazine of IIM Shillong which seeks to provide to the world outside, News, views and Creative Expressions from members of the IIMS family. Nuksa is a Khasi word meaning example or sample and as the Pine Tree is almost synonymous to Shillong and our beautiful campus, hence the name Nuksa, The Pine Chronicle.

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Vision

To become an internationally recognized management Institute with a global outlook grounded in Indian values.

Mission

To generate and disseminate knowledge in all aspects of management education for sustainable development and to develop innovative leaders with strong ethical values.

Core Values

- ❖ Openness to new ideas and experiences
- ❖ Intellectual freedom
- ❖ Self-experimentation and creative pursuit
- ❖ Adherence to fair, just and ethical practices
- ❖ Compassion for others

EDITORIAL

The introduction of the conveyor belt in the manufacture of goods revolutionised the production process and soon became an industry standard. Almost all sectors sought to reap the benefits of higher production and greater profits through efficient conveyor belt systems and greater mechanisation. The last two centuries has distinguished itself as the age where mankind maintains a single minded focus on earning higher and higher profits to the exclusion of everything else. Strangely, this obsessive compulsion is not seen as a disorder, when the focus is on higher profits!

This phenomenon has had its most profound impact on the system of inculcating knowledge, skills and values to our young ones, which is supposed to enable them to carry forward the legacy of human civilization to the next generation. Yes, I am talking about the Education System that we have adopted. It would stand comparison to the best industrial production system that the genius of man could achieve for production of goods! The same standards have been meticulously adopted for education too, where students get into courses that run much in the fashion of conveyor belts and

at the end of the designated time the belt stops moving, students get off after receiving a stamp certifying that they are products of the particular institution and its brand. The transition from being a person with a distinct identity to a product with a brand value has become the new normal. Not surprisingly, success is measured in terms of the price or the premium the product attracts in the market!

The 2nd of July this year marked the inauguration of the new PGP batch of IIM Shillong. As I looked at the 180 odd faces, drawn from all corners of the country, rippling with vitality and promise that only youth can exude, one thought refused to leave me. If Education is an enabler that is supposed to pass on the knowledge, skills and wisdom from one generation to the next to ensure the continued existence of civilization, are we messing things up? Are we calculating Profits to the exclusion of Values, championing Form over Content, Deceit over Truth? Are we doing this with an arrogance born of the knowledge that humans question but products do not and the conveyor belt of education is designed to churn out products, signed sealed and delivered for the markets to consume. Profit are measureable but values, aesthetics and sensibilities are not. Probably also immeasurable is the urgent need for the educators to try and inculcate the knowledge, skills and values to our next generation that would enable them to carry forward the legacy of human civilization in all its glory!

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TIMELINE

Commencement Ceremony for 11th Batch

Indian Institute of Management, Shillong conducted the commencement ceremony for the Post Graduate Program in Management 2018-20 and Fellow Program in Management 2018 participants. The Institute welcomed the 11th batch of PGP in the presence of honorable Chief Guest Mr. Satish Pai, Managing Director, Hindalco Industries.



Addressing the participants, Professor Key Sen Gupta, Director, IIM Shillong said, "This is the day when you join the fraternity of IIM Shillong and the name and prestige of the institute is handed to you. Life is incomplete without challenges, and we will work together as a family to make sure that you handle all the challenges responsibly."



Mr. Pai shared his enriching experience with the participants and talked about how challenges are the key to success in the corporate world. He emphasized the importance of time management, stress management, ethics and leadership in professional as well as personal life. Talking about the diversity of the batch, Mr Pai said, "Research and experience have proven that diverse teams tend to perform better as they can bring in much wider perspective." The 11th batch of PGP has 40% females and participants from eclectic academic background.

The constitution of the Students Affairs Coordination Committee was formally released during the ceremony, to streamline and accord due recognition to the functioning of various clubs and committees of IIM Shillong. The participants took the oath

administered by Professor Basav Roychoudhury, PGP Chairperson. Professor Choudhury enlightened the batch about the opportunities that lie ahead in their 2-year course. The wide array of electives offered, the course of independent study to pursue research, two-month internship and the study abroad program to get international exposure were few of the important opportunities highlighted by him. The ceremony ended with a vote of thanks from Chief Administrative Officer, Lt Colonel Prashant Kulkarni retd.

IIM Shillong hosts local students for campus tour

Indian Institute of Management, Shillong hosted the students of M. Deb Singh Memorial School, Assam to sensitise them about the future opportunities available to them. Riya Jaison and Saurabh Tyagi, participants of IIM Shillong, gave a pep talk and enlightened the students about the career choices they will have in future and how can they make effective and responsible choices. At an important juncture in their life, the students were curious and keen to understand how management education can shape their career.

During their interaction with the participants of IIM Shillong, the visiting teachers said, "It is great to see the amount of commitment and effort each professor puts in before every lecture." They felt that the discipline of students at IIM Shillong will inspire their students to be more punctual and have a sincere attitude towards academics. During the tour of the campus, the visitors, particularly students, were intrigued by the cleanliness of the campus and were informed



of the sustainability initiatives and courses. The tour is a part of the Institute's continuous efforts to contribute to the local community and is in harmony with its Nurturing Minds intervention, where classes for local students are held every weekend by the students of the Institute, primarily in the area of Mathematics and Science. Regular motivational sessions inclined towards opening a window to the opportunities in Management education for targetted students is also a major activity. The initiatives are aimed at holistic development of the students, in line with the Institute's core values of intellectual freedom and compassion for others.

IIM Shillong celebrated 10 years of existence

IIM Shillong celebrated 10 years of existence on the 4th July 2018, at its current campus at Mayurbhanj Palace, Shillong. Prof Keya Sengupta, Director (In-charge) spoke on the occasion and congratulated faculties, officers, staff and all key stake holders of IIM Shillong for their contribution during these 10 years of journey since 4th July 2008. The same was followed by a cake cutting ceremony by Prof Basav Roychoudhury and Khraw Kupar Pyrbot as oldest faculty member and staff of the Institute along with Kong P. Kharshiing from the outsourced services.



MDP on “Change Management’

A MDP on “Change Management’ ” was organized by IIM Shillong in the Campus for Executives of POWERGRID from 09th to 13th July 2018 .The participants group was drawn from various designations and from different states of India.

The program was inaugurated by Prof. Harsh Vardhan Samalia (Chairman-MDP and Consultancy) who welcomed the participants and other dignitaries followed by brief of training programme by the Program Coordinator Prof Rohit Dwivedi.

The 5 days programme was conducted by in house faculty. The program is designed to facilitate development of capability through reflection and learning. During the course of the program, the participants were encouraged to connect their experiences with theory and vice-versa and to re-establish a connect with their peers and to honestly share their problems, anxieties and desires about the company.



MDP on “Finance for Non Finance Executives”

A customized MDP on “ Finance fore Non Finance Executive” was organized from 23rd-27th July 2018 for Executives of CPSEs and SLPEs, Department of Public Enterprises sponsored by Ministry Of Heavy Industry, GOI, in the campus of IIM Shillong. 40 participants from across the country attended the training programme.

The 5 days program was coordinated by Prof. Naliniprava Tripathy –Dean Research, New Initiatives and External Relations, and Prof. Neelam Rani from IIM Shillong and facilitated by 7 In-house Faculty/Resource person from various areas of expertise.

The methodology included Case studies, Classroom Lectures and Management Games and facilitated by the resource faculty bringing a lot of variation and new insights to the training program. Being amidst the hills of Shillong, the participants were also taken for half day outdoor excursion whereby in the quiet and beauty of nature, the participants could contemplate and reflect on study exercises guided by resource faculty.



Mahindra War Room-The Campus Launch

IIM Shillong stepped into the War as it kicks off Mahindra War Room Season 11. The participants are ready to Go Big and Go Bold as they put their minds to solve challenges that will shape the future business landscape.



APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research & Analysis

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis held its first stakeholders meeting on 27th July, 2018, the third death anniversary of Dr Kalam. The focus of the meeting was to understand the expectations of the stake holders.



The meeting was chaired by Shri Ram Muivah IAS, Secretary, North Eastern Council (NEC), Government of India. The meeting was attended by representatives from NEC, MDoNER, the governments of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland, agencies like NEDFi, NEHHDC, and NERCORMP, in addition to the faculty members of the Institute. Shri Muivah elaborated on the thinking behind the Centre, while Prof. Keya Sengupta, Centre Coordinator, put the goals of the Centre into perspective. Thereafter, the current state of affairs, challenges and pitfalls were brought to the fore during the deliberations, and the participants expressed the hope that the Centre will help them in overcoming those by assessing the outcome of current policies and providing inputs for their improvements and/or localization.

3rd APJ Abdul Kalam Lecture Series

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong organised the third edition of the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Lecture Series 2018 on July 27th to mark the death anniversary of former President, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The lecture which commenced with an soulful invocation, followed by Director Prof. Keya Sengupta, Director, IIM Shillong reminiscing on how “Dr. Kalam’s teachings, has helped nurture and develop the personality of the young and dynamic leaders emerging out of IIM Shillong who can finally shape the future business landscape.”

Padma Bhushan Prof. Bikash Sinha speaks on The Beauty and The Aesthetics in Science

Renowned physicist and Chief Guest of the event, Padma Bhushan Prof. Bikash Sinha delivered a lecture on “The Beauty and The Aesthetics in Science”, which was attended amongst a host of attendees comprising of faculty and students of colleges and schools, and dignitaries from the Indian Army, the Airforce, Paramilitary, State and Central Armed Police Forces as well as by the students of IIM Shillong.

Interestingly, Prof. Bikash Sinha is an Indian National Science Academy (INSA) honorary scientist and an expert in the fields of nuclear physics and high energy physics. He is the former director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre.

He has also been the Homi Bhabha Chair Professor of the Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre and was a member of the scientific advisory board to the Prime Minister of India. Professor Sinha talked about the intricate relationship of beauty and science. Talking about Einstein’s field equation of gravity, he said, “Look at the beauty of the equation. It has the ability to describe and explain the entire universe.” He talked about the work of great luminaries such as Werner Karl Heisenberg, Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac, Majorana, Fermi and Stephen Hawking and the significance of aesthetics of their theories and equations. Addressing the students in his concluding statement, he said, “Man has used science to destroy mankind but remember that on this very day, 3 years back Dr. Kalam breathed his last while still espousing his belief that India’s growth is a collective responsibility.

“Drawing light on the true magnitude found in great personalities like Einstein and Tagore, Prof. Sinha exhorted current generations



in arriving on discursive points, the respective domain of study and knowledge. He stressed that this can further lead to development and progress by fostering better understanding of each other’s strength and weaknesses, and being more humane and cherishing the true essence of humanity.

On behalf of the Institute, Prof. Basav Roy Choudhury, PGP Chairperson, thanked Prof Sinha for sharing his insights and the thought-provoking lecture. Thanking everyone for their contribution in making the event a success, he said, “Dr. Kalam does not need any introduction but it is good to remind ourselves of his contribution to humanity. He could not have imagined his commemoration without the presence of children and we are honoured to have children from various schools of Shillong.”

IIM Shillong also hosted a candle lighting and floral homage on its campus, remembered by many as the place where India’s most beloved former President breathed his last, which was open to the public to pay their respect to the much-loved Missile Man of India.



ALUM SPEAK

[IMP] [Action Required]: Watch your waste



IIM Shillong completed 10 years of establishment this year. Through the last 10 years, there have been a number of things that have changed - professors, directors - the hunt for a new one is still on from what I hear, campus layout – new buildings added and

badminton courts demolished. We've even done away with the (rather superfluous) prefix that the institute was formed with. Through all of this change, the core value, the unique branding proposition of our institute - sustainability - has endured.

Back in college, we were surrounded by immense dialogue around the topic. Events and drives were organised by clubs to drive home the message of sustainability and eminent speakers - including Dr Kalam, spoke to us on the subject.

Three years on, I wonder where we are on this and whether it's really top of mind for us.

A very potent, and omnipresent, sub-topic of sustainability is raising concern levels with each passing day: plastic pollution.

We're all aware of the ways in which plastic lingers on in our environment for years, and while recycling and re-use are important topics that need to be addressed, unlike the bigger ways of driving sustainability, controlling plastic waste should speak directly to us because, as consumers and just as human beings living in the present times, we're a source of that waste generation.

And so through this space, what I'm really hoping for, is to urge the readers to start curbing their use of plastics, use recycling (wherever available) and recyclable products as far as possible.

Where can we start? We can start small, really.

- Start with refusing single use plastic straws. If you frequent Starbucks outlets, very soon you may not be able to get one anyway. Starbucks has decided to eliminate straws from its 28k

An Olive Ridley turtle was found with a plastic straw lodged in its nose. A video of the straw being removed and the nose bleeding a stream of blood has been watched by about 6 million people now.



stores worldwide, estimating that the move would mean the planet is rid of 1bn straws!

- Carry a cloth bag on your next grocery run.
- Stop using disposable water bottles and disposable glasses and cups.
- When you order food, add a comment to say you do not need the plastic cutlery unless you're ordering from a park bench.
- Champion the cause of reducing single use plastic waste in your respective workplaces.

Will the impact count?

As this will perhaps be read by a qualified audience of approximately 1200 people (1032, if I am to take an exact number from a mail by Alum Comm) who have been exposed to in-depth ideas on sustainability, I am hoping the impact will not be negligible. For it doesn't stop at that, if on average, each of us is connected closely to at least 10 colleagues, 10 friends and 5 family members, we're looking at 30k odd people trying to curb plastic waste in their own lives and their immediate circles. And hopefully this network will multiply and thrive.

A polar bear eating plastic. In its natural habitat.



The instances of the incisive presence and impact of plastics are numerous. Curbing its waste generation at source is definitely an answer.

There have been numerous examples of societies that have been successful at it. Most popularly surfaced is the story of Switzerland, which reduced unsorted waste by 40% by taxing its people for their waste.

A sea horse swimming with an ear bud for company.



I hope that as a community, the IIM Shillong alumni and students can practice this in their lives too.

Varsha Poddar

PGP 2013

Current : Campaign Manager, Google

MÉTIER

Sanjoy Mukherjee (2018). Paper titled 'Management and Liberal Arts: A Transformational Odyssey with Rabindranath Tagore' by Sanjoy Mukherjee was published as a chapter in the book titled 'Arts, Spirituality and Economics' edited by Luk Bouckaert, Knut J. Ims and Peter Rona from Springer International Publishing AG in July 2018.

Kakoty Sanjeeb ; "Organizational Thinking for Sustainability" . CSR and Climate Change Implications for Multinational Enterprises, Ed.by John R. McIntyre and Silvester Ivanaj Veera Ivanaj: P.p 56-66 ISBN:9781786437754 .Published By Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd. UK. 2018.

OFF BEAT

Today, the worth living



The independence of deciding what, where and especially when to do things, the flexibility with which the blessed duration of 24 hours can be utilized, is quite appreciable. But the perception of having control over something as grave as time, is not.

Time, we misinterpret as an entity with an existence limited to the moving hands of a clock, is, actually, a superpower that governs every movement of the smartest being on earth.

A clock, we take no more than a toy since we are introduced to it, is actually a system the entire world is a puppet to.

The time we feign to have presidency over, by tying its mere form into our wrists, is actually something even every breath we take is tied to.

The very clock we expect to witness our waking up and going to bed, is instead, percipient enough to have witnessed our birth and is persistent enough to witness our death.

Time, which we miscalculate to be limited within the 12 known digits, in its true sense, calculates the limits of our possible existence much beyond our own calculation.

It is stunning to see time overpower the presence of humans, something it was defined to provide dimensions to.

How strange it is that the time, literally made to serve the purpose of human convenience, is actually, the purpose behind the desired convenient lives of people all over the world.

All our ambitions and aspirations, longings and desires are outcomes of either the experiences of the past, or the imagination of the future. Most of our thoughts relate to the happened or the yet to happen. How contrasting would be the plans of our being, if we were to live eternally. And how surprising would they be if these were the last few days of our life.

Time is undoubtedly an envelope to the way we choose to live our life. In spite of being an imperceptible quantity, how come does it affect us to such extremes.

How yesterday, we no longer are a part of, is capable of offering us an equivalent vicarious emotion.

How tomorrow, whose existence is still uncertain, is the phase of being, most thought over.

How past, in spite of being completely irrelevant, is a basis of our contemporary existence. How future, we are yet to enter into, concerns what we are already into, to an incorrigible extent.

How the pleasant memories are capable of bringing a smile on one's face today, how the thought of future wrinkles one's forehead.

How the most profound sorrows presiding our minds somewhere concern unforgotten past.

How the most wonderful phase of everyone's life is stated "yet to come"

How the reality of today is proved transient in front of the imaginatively lived yesterday.

How the mugged up lessons never fade the well memorized list of fantasies associating every individual.

Do not let thoughts live your life. Life is much beyond just thinking of yesterday and tomorrow. After all, today was yesterday's tomorrow and will be tomorrow's yesterday.

Realize today much beyond the lived yesterdays and the dreamed tomorrows. Indulge in present, lest, entangled in these thoughts, you miss something that was never before and will be never again.

Garima Singh Nahar
PGP 2018

ODE

A tribute to my beloved father

Although I cannot hear his voice or see his smile no more,
But my father walks besides me still just as he did before.
He listens to my stories in my dreams and wipes away my tears;
He wraps his arms around me and makes me feel that he
understands my fears and worries.
It's just he isn't visible to see with human eye,
but I many times talk to him in my silence and felt at times his
spirit replied me quite often.

Many a times I felt the love he had for me
which I miss from the bottom of my heart making me despondent;
As he left his human body forever,
but it's difficult to part my feelings and emotions for the departed
soul over all these years to come....

Bikram Mohanty

