

Winter..
..is here.

THE PINE CHRONICLE

News, Views and Creative Expressions

EDITORIAL

The story of human survival is replete with the use of violence both as a means of subjugating others and also ensuring security for self. In the modern age, violence and politics are beginning to show an intimate relationship. As a matter of fact, both state and non-state actors engage in violence, but the subvert use of violence or the threat of it exercises enormous influence in social decision making. Yet, it remains difficult to either quantify or easily explain it. However, state actors using violence seek to justify it on the basis of assertion of legitimacy and legal provisions. Many a philosopher and thinker has sought to legitimize violence by calling it an instrument of politics. Thomas Hobbes regarded violence as a rational means to achieve certain political goals while Carl von Clausewitz called war as the continuation of politics by other means. It was left to the redoubtable Winston Churchill to simply surmise that the story of the human race is the story of war! If that be the case, then questions would certainly be raised about the need, efficacy and achievement, if any, of the phenomenon called civilization and human development. No doubt, apologists for violence would certainly use a lot of reason, logic and historical justification to justify violence as a means of political ends and social problem resolution. At the same time, there has also been efforts to posit violence as a result of political failure and miscalculation. Whatever be, the increasing spiral of violence and counter violence that has engulfed the world has the potential of spiraling out of control and reduce humanity to a mass of senseless misery, death and destruction. It is a matter of grave concern that in recent times, violence has been shown to be a pathological behaviour that would not only reduce the progress of civilization but also take it back a few centuries. Such pathological behaviour is likened to a public-health problem that can be eradicated by the use of superior violence. Unfortunately, most efforts at eradication, without tackling the underlying causes simply gives rise to another vicious cycle of violence and counter violence, albeit in newer forms and mutations. Though writers and political scientist would seek to assign violence a subordinate role in political life, yet it continues to occupy centre stage in today's world. Though most counties seek to advocate that problems cannot be solved by the use of force and violence, yet they do precious little to initiate the process of dialogue that would sort out problems and heal past wounds. At the same time, it is also a fact that such a value position and efforts at peace making goes on to reinforce our moral sensibilities and garners huge popular support. This stands in contrast to trends noticed worldwide about the use of force and drowning the discordant voice through violence. Arguably, the history of the modern world has

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has seen the domination of the strong and the violent over the meek! Indeed, the West's global dominance for most of the past millennium is in large part a function of its capacity for violence. This may be due to the fact that the advocates and proponents of violence succeed in extinguishing the weaker voice and thereby establish their ideology and foist legitimacy. It is also been seen that in many instances the mere threat of violence is often enough to compel acquiescence. Another persistent pattern has been that of groups using violence being defeated through use of superior of force against them. This in turn creates a vicious cycle of violence and counter violence. Sometimes, there has been examples of this vicious cycle of violence being broken by innovative and non violent means of political action. References are made to the struggle for Indian independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and racial discrimination in America under Martin Luther King Jr. Interestingly, it is often argued that the tactics of leaders like Gandhi, and Martin Luther King Jr used were far from nonviolent as they were designed to provoke violent responses. This violent response would succeed in demolishing the moral legitimacy of the perpetrators of violence, in this case the government, thereby opening the gates to its eventual overthrow! In other words, though the political efficacy of violence is clear, yet it seems to have within it the seeds of its eventual failure. In addition, the articulation of issues through the use of violence is also counterproductive as there is a persistent tendency to treat it as a problem rather than a solution. The need is to understand political violence as a disease that can be cured through the alleviation of poverty and inequality or other such issues. Unfortunately, there is a growing trend of overlooking the overt acts of violence committed by wealthy and powerful individuals, groups, and nations and seeking justification on flimsy and unacceptable logic. The world can no longer ignore what the social theorist Slavoj Zizek calls "systemic violence," or the use of coercion and threats of violence by the powerful to control and intimidate the lower orders. Allowing this to happen, will open up the possibility of counter violence and the resultant vicious cycle will start a fire that will consume everything in its path.

ABOUT NUKSA

Nuksa The Pine Chronicle is the monthly news magazine of IIM Shillong.

Editor Prof. Sanjeeb Kakoty
Advisor Prof. D.P. Goyal

Team Members

Dr. Sudhir Kumar Jena, Shri Hemango K Dutta,
Shri. Banteilang Syiemiong, Shri. Merlvin Jude
Mukhim, Shri. W K Shylla

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TIMELINE

IIM Shillong seals agreement with ICSI, New Delhi

The Indian Institute of Management Shillong and The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), New Delhi has decided to join hands and work together to create synergy between specialized higher education and professional education. Underlying the importance of the profession of company secretaries, it was decided to highlight their role in mainstream academic circles.

To that end an agreement signed on 21 February, 2020 the ICSI has proposed the introduction of a Gold Medal to be awarded to the topper of the flagship PGP program. The medal would be termed as the ICSI Signature Award and would be award each year. The ICSI will make the necessary arrangements through its North Eastern Chapter EIRO for distribution during the Annual Convocation conducted by IIM Shillong.

This marks the beginning of a new chapter of cooperation between IIM Shillong and ICSI and is expected to lead to wider co-operation between them.



Officials of IIM Shillong and ICSI New Delhi during the signing ceremony

Alumni Association : Bengaluru Chapter

The Alumni Association of IIM Shillong added another feather in its cap by successfully initiating the Bengaluru Chapter. With the city accounting for a strong alumni presence, the starting of the chapter is considered a big step forward. The city chapters are expected to boost the activities of the IIMS Alumni Association. The first Chapter Meet at Bengaluru was conducted on 22nd of February 2020. The alumni present at the venue voted to elect the Chapter Head. Ms. Harshali Damle, PGP alumni of 2011-13 batch was elected as the first Chapter Head of Bengaluru.

"If you focus on results, you will never change.

If you focus on change, you will get results."

Jack Dixon

CeDNER initiates Consultative Meeting

IIM Shillong's Centre for Development of North Eastern Region (CeDNER) held a consultative meeting on 10th February, 2020 at IIM Shillong. The agenda of the meeting was on the theme of Gaps in Sustainable and Inclusive Development of the North East and Strategies that may be adopted. The session witnessed participation by intellectuals, namely, academicians and former Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission of India Prof. David Syiemlieh, former Indian Ambassador Shri. Rudy Warjri, retired Director of Horticulture, Govt. of Meghalaya Dr. Carl Rangad, Editor of The Shillong Times Smt. Patricia Mukhim, Dr. Albert Chiang, Dr. Pardeep K. Bhardwaj, Shri. Ricky Renthlei amongst others.



Focus On Entrepreneurship At IIM Shillong

E-Cell, the entrepreneurship cell of IIM Shillong, conducted Emerge, the annual flagship entrepreneurship summit of IIM Shillong. Celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit of the managers of tomorrow, the eighth edition of Emerge was conducted on the 22nd and 23rd of February. Professor D.P. Goyal, Director, IIM Shillong, addressed the gathering in the opening ceremony and rekindled the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in the participants. "As a B-School we realize that it is not enough to only develop managers, but entrepreneurs and job providers who are ready to innovate, to grasp the opportunities and remain ready to face the challenges. Entrepreneurship is a mindset," he remarked.



The inauguration was followed by panel discussions with eminent entrepreneurs from across the country centering around the themes of "Hospitality landscape in North East" and "The Young Entrepreneurs" which gave the participants a perspective on how to counter impediments, failures and challenges and look for opportunity in entrepreneurship journey. Speakers included

Prashant Rao Aroor, CEO, IntelliStay Hotels, Larsing Ming Sawyan, MD, The Centre Point Group, Soumya Dutta, Founder Hatke Stays, Girish Ahirwar, Serial Entrepreneur, Amit Gautam, CEO & Founder Pasito Industries, GursakhiLugani, CEO Nakhrewali, Vandeeep Singh, CFO & Strategic Advisor GBFK Fashion, and Ridhinil Roy, CEO NE8X.



There was a workshop by Gunajit Brahma, a national award-winning serial entrepreneur, on 'Essentials for Business Success.' He talked about the vital elements that are indispensable to carve a successful business career. The event also drew participation of students of different colleges from Shillong.

On the second day of the event, the coveted "Best Manager" competition was organized. The competition, through three phases of grueling case analysis, presentation and interview, checked the mettle of the participants.

The two day event concluded with the whole of IIM Shillong experiencing the spirits of entrepreneurship, innovation and aspiration.

Corporate Interaction Session

Kaushal Ghai, from the PGP 2012-14 batch, revisited campus for a corporate interaction session with the PGP participants. A Product Manager at Microsoft, he talked about careers in the field, and the importance of using technology to understand and solve customer-problems.



IIM Shillong's Football Team

IIM Shillong's Football Team lifted the six-a-side Football Tournament conducted by Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi, at their annual management, cultural and sports fest, FIESTA.



OBITUARY



Prof Tapas Kumar Giri, or TKG as he was popularly called is no more. After valiantly fighting illness for sixteen months, he bid farewell to this world on a Monday the 17th of February 2020. Often held up as an epitome of strength

and optimism, TKG displayed amazing strength and optimism till the very end. Essentially a family man, his wife Arpita and daughter Asmita meant the world to him. Interestingly, TKG also had the ability to make everyone he met his own! Proud of his rural background, he loved the outdoors and was very fond of swimming. A man who was not known to mince words, he was also not known to accept defeat easily. With a background of research in environmental science and long years of work in NIRD, he brought his experience and passion of sustainability and rural development to the classroom. Some of the courses he taught, such as Environment Management and Sustainable Business Strategies, Inclusive Growth and Entrepreneurship Management, Agri-business Management & Rural Marketing amply reflected it. His room was always open, to students and colleagues alike. They could walk in anytime and be sure of receiving a sympathetic ear to their problems. He would not only offer solutions but be available to lend a helping hand to anybody who needed it. There was no institutional activity that was complete without him tirelessly working to ensure the success of the event. TKG would probably be best remembered for leading the Foundation course on sustainability and his leadership in organizing seven editions of SUSCON, the international sustainability conference. The long treks with students, be it to the sacred forest at Mawphlang or the double root bridge, his long strides and boundless energy that could hardly be matched by students half his age are images that will forever be cherished! Good bye Tapas. You will be dearly missed!

ODE

You're not alone...

No great crisis in our lives – not the great depression, not a world war

The generation called millennials – we're the future, not a lost cause

But if you ever feel otherwise, know that you're not alone...

Taught all our lives to differentiate right from wrong, that it's black and white

Only learning through experience how grey it all is

Wondering whether there was a point to the near quarter century we spent

If you feel the same, know that you're not alone...

Balancing as if on a tight-rope, trying to find what's important in life, what it's for

Focusing on our careers – make a living or a fortune?

Do what makes us or that which makes everyone around us happy?

If you're struggling to find the answers to these, know that you're not alone...

Supposedly balancing our social lives in this hyperconnected world

Having a thousand friends, but a handful of people to confide in

Looking for that companion or that 3 AM friend

If you're still searching, know that you're not alone...

Ever-learning, evolving, adapting

To the increasingly faster changing times

Knowing deep down we could do it

With each other's help, know you're not alone...

On the cusp of a windfall of good times

Of great leaps in mankind's abilities, our reach

See the world changing for the better

We're on this journey together, know you're not alone...

Nishant Naik
PGP19

ALUM SPEAK

My few cents for Next Generation Managers

Almost 6 years gone, but the memories of glorious days in Shillong still remains fresh – From the early visit to sacred Mawphlang forest to the final graduation day, the campus offered innumerable beautiful moments to be etched in memory forever.

Now, is the fag end of the academic year – the time where you will be thrilled about making an entry into corporate life post MBA. The campus has nurtured us with lot of dreams and ambitions about a

promising and exciting career, doesn't it? While you all root for an exciting role, where you can apply all your class room learnings, the reality of corporate life will be very different to begin with.

All the excitement of corporate world turned pale very quickly for me and some of my friends. While, we expect an action-packed profile, most of us begin our career doing some boring and mundane jobs with no clarity on the future. It takes time for us to come to terms with the harsh reality.

Based on my 5 and half years of experience and learnings in the corporate world, here are my suggestions for budding future managers and leaders. As MBA grads, you will have some reluctance towards few things. But breaking that shackles is very important to be a potential great leader in the future.

Get ready to learn the hard way:

The most common reluctance after completing an MBA degree, is to do daily operational or mundane tasks. But unfortunately, most of us will end up doing the same. While it demotivates us, sometimes it is really critical for a good manager to understand the bottom of a job. Surprising, but true, nearly half the decisions in organizations fail because managers tend to fail finding a root cause of the problem. Learning the hard way provides a chance to understand the business at grass root level, which will benefit you later on to make informed and practical decisions for a problem.

Secondly, in the age of AI Bots, it is vital for managers to identify the opportunities for automation to improve the efficiency of the overall business process. Again, hands on experience at the operational level will comes handy in making the right choices.

Let Data be your companion:

As the famous saying goes "In God we trust, all others bring data", Data becomes utmost critical in today's digital and Internet of Thing age. The amount of data we produce every day is mind-boggling. We create around 2.5 quintillion bytes of data each day, and it only gets higher with the growth of IoT. Every organization aims to capitalize this data revolution and become an intelligent enterprise to improve their business processes including customer experience, operational efficiency, products and services offerings etc.

With so much data generated and available for businesses to leverage, it becomes imperative for Managers and Business Leaders to be data savvy, with the ability to mine large chunk of data and obtain meaningful insights. Managers should be able to make data driven decision making by slicing and dicing company's data, and clearly present them in order to find answers to key

business questions. Thus, it is critical to learn basic data mining and data science skills, which will be very valuable in your professional career.

Never shy away from Technology:

The Digital native companies like Amazon, Google, Facebook, Netflix, Uber etc are disrupting the entire world. They have utilized the power of technology to create new wave of business models, that are shaking the foundation of traditional deep-rooted giants such as Walmart of the world.

Also, today's Millennials and Generation Z have the power of latest technologies and information at their disposal and are forcing organizations to continually evolve for survival. Technology is no more seen just as a competitive advantage, but it has become basic need of an organization to be relevant in the market.

Hence as future managers, it is absolute necessity to be up-to date with the latest technologies. It will help to improve your business, tackle competitive pressures and most importantly provides you the ability to understand the customers better and create personalized experiences for them.

Make smart career decisions:

Many often in our career, we will be in a dilemma of whether are we at the right organization or doing the right role etc. It is a tricky situation; where there is no right or wrong decisions. But couple of things are very important while making those hard choices. One, to look at the career with a wider lens and be clear about your future goals. Never think about short term gains while making career choices. Two, does your current profile offers you new learnings? The moment learning stops in any role, that is the time for change. Finally, Growth in professional career is very important, but it is not measured only by money; Self-satisfaction is utmost important.

Hope you all make smart choices in your career and become a true business leader in the days to come.



Ernesto Dhileban
PGP 2012-14
Consultant,
Data Analytics & AI at Wipro

KOPDA SEASON 12			
STAFF & FACULTY EXHIBITION MATCH SUMMARY			
RJ	10 OVERS	102-4	
RISHI AHUJA	48 (23)	SHUBHAM AGNIHOTRI	1-3 (1)
BOHIT JOSHI	28 (17)	ABHISHEK ARYA	1-11 (2)
MJM	10 OVERS	53-6	
SHUBHAM AGNIHOTRI	15 (8)	ABHISHEK SAKENA	3-12 (2)
ABHISHEK ARYA	12 (10)	BHAWESH BHANDARI	1-3 (1)
RJ WON BY 49 RUNS			
MAN OF THE MATCH - RISHI AHUJA			



Team photograph of the Cricket Exhibition Match

Contact

Email: nuksa@iimshillong.ac.in
Editor: Prof. Sanjeeb Kakoty
Phone No: +91 364 2308008 Email: sky@iimshillong.ac.in



भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान शिलांग
Indian Institute of Management Shillong
Mayurbhanj Complex, Nongthymmai
Shillong-793014
Website: www.iimshillong.ac.in
Phone: 0364-2308000