

Hello
Spring!

THE PINE CHRONICLE

News, Views and Creative Expressions

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FACULTY DESK

Open-Source Software and National Saving

A business standard article published long ago quoted that India can save two billion USD dollars through open-source softwares. This business standard article has covered the entire commercial software used by the Indian community.

In this write-up, I would like to summarise the use of open-source software in the business school curriculum and how it leads to national savings. Most universities, especially in management courses, use commercial data analysis software such as SPSS, SAS, Stata, etc. Because of the pandemic, students do not have access to some of the software available in their labs. Even faculty members may not have the required software to do their remote teaching. To resolve this issue, educational institutions and faculty members can start using open-source software in their remote education. For example, in some multivariate data analysis courses, we use MATLAB to perform numerical analysis. The cost of the MATLAB academic version per year is Rs. 15000. We can alternatively use open-source license-based Scilab or Octave GNU.

Similarly, we use SPSS software to handle data analysis courses in the management discipline. The SPSS base version costs Rs. 6935 per month. You estimate the number of institutions and users using this software to handle data analysis courses across the country. Alternatively, we would use JAMOVI, JASP and BlueSky Statistics to replace commercial software used in management schools in India. These open-source software are developed based on R programming language.

Similarly, in R software, a Graphical User Interfaced (GUI) based package is available called Rcmdr, and in Python Orange package. Beyond these GUI-based packages, we can also try using programming-based languages like Julia, R, and Python. With the help of these approaches, we can save the education budget of the institute; in turn, it results in national savings. Our government also took some initiatives to promote open-source software usage in Indian universities through FOSSEE (www.fossee.in).

The above table shows the approximate estimated cost for procuring three of the popular software in India. This amount is going away from India to procure the required softwares. Only for three of the software I have shown the estimated budget. Similarly, many more commercial software is widely used by educational institutions in India.

In conclusion, with the help of open-source software, we would be able to save the education budget of the institute/university; in turn, it will lead to national savings.

Example Estimation of Software Cost

S. No	Commercial software	Approximate price per user license	Estimated budget for the country (per year)	Alternative open-source software options
1	IBM SPSS Base version	Rs. 77000 per year	2000 colleges with 60 user licenses=Rs. 924 crores	BlueSky Statistics, JAMOVI, JASP, PSPP, R, Python
2	MATLAB Standard	Rs. 62000 per year	2000 colleges with 60 user licenses=Rs. 744 crores	Scilab and GNU Octave
3	IBM SPSS Modeler	Rs. 34,956 per month	500 colleges with 30 user licenses =Rs. 629.2 Crores	Orange package in Python and KNIME
Total			Rs. 2297.2 Crores	

Dr. P. Murugan



ABOUT NUKSA

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

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Advisor Prof. D.P. Goyal

Editorial Team

Dr. Sudhir Kumar Jena,
Shri. Merlvin Jude Mukhim,
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Chairman of the Board of Governors, Shri Shishir Kumar Bajoria, congratulated the students and the faculty members in his address. "Although the crisis brought several human-institutional challenges, we, as a community, grew stronger. India, as a country, faced the pandemic in one of the best ways in the world; our leadership ensured that our heads were held high," he said.



Director of IIM Shillong, Prof DP Goyal, said that the Institute has made significant all-round progress and pointed out that the most-awaited moment for IIM Shillong was to be housed in its own campus.



- Ms. Jessyca Laloo, Office Assistant
- Mr. Zicco Shira, System Analyst & Officer (IT) – incharge
- Mr. Merlvin J. Mukhim, Admn. Officer Student Affairs



The nomination for Excellence Award was judged on the basis of the one or more of the following metrics by a specially constituted Committee:

- The Officer/Staff member consistently performs his/her job in a manner that is helpful to students, faculty, officers & staff of the Institute. The action on the part of the officer/staff member should foster excellence in personal interaction, communication, collaboration and cooperation with students, faculty and colleagues.
- The work performed by the officer/staff member should exhibit initiative, enthusiasm, courage, risk and presence of mind and



The inaugural ceremony of the conference at IIM Shillong Umsawli campus was attended by various luminaries including Prof. Sushil, Founder President, GIFT Society and Prof. Sudhir K Jain, Present President, GIFT Society, and Prof. Neelam Rani of IIM Shillong. Prof. Mayank Pareek, Professor of Practice from SJ Mehta School of Management at IIT Bombay was the Chief Guest during the occasion in presence of Dr. DP Goyal, Director of IIM Shillong.

Sofia Johan, an associate professor at Florida Atlantic University, attended the conference virtually. The speakers shared their knowledge, experiences and insights while vastly elaborating on the multi-dimensional themes of flexibility, resilience and sustainability.

GLOGIFT 21 featured research papers and practice papers on a range of subtopics pertaining to the theme of the conference. Some of the subtopics were systematic flexibility, business agility, strategic flexibility, sustainable supply chain, information system flexibility, strategic alliances and eco-innovation. The full papers and their abstracts were being collected since November, last.

Commencement Ceremony for the 10th Batch of one year full-time PGPEX

Speaking as Chief Guest during the occasion, Mr. Ravi Pratap Singh, Executive Director, Nucleus Software said to the students, "If you can't do what you enjoy, then you better enjoy what you do."

Mr. Singh, further introduced the participants to a 3 strategy note, which one needs to follow on their journey, and which he himself followed during his professional career. Learning being the first strategy where a professional can continuously evolve himself as a learner. He stressed on the fact that one cannot learn, until he is willing to put his defects on the table.

He mentioned the process of continuous improvement as second strategy that one needs to adopt to cater to the need of growing

demand on resource capabilities. "Organisations and people cannot be static. One needs to improve and keep improving every day", he said and advised the students to learn new things every day, take feedbacks and continue evolving. The third strategy is to build a strong foundation of integrity and values where he mentioned few noted entrepreneurs, and highlighted the consequences of not having integrity. "No one starts with that intent, it happens gradually", he said while focusing on the process of eroding ethics. "Build a strong ethical foundation... Businesses will test your integrity. Integrity is the only way businesses and professionals can last", he reiterated.



He reminded the students to not only take up the course for an improved salary package but to understand and cherish the journey of becoming true leaders.



Director IIM Shillong, Prof DP Goyal, emphasized on the need to set a benchmark by the 10th batch for the years to come. "We produce managers with ethical and human values, wherein sustainability is our core focus", Professor Goyal added. He also mentioned how teachers are only facilitators who would create and provide an environment suitable for effective learning, but the students have to be self-motivated. He also spoke about the unpredictability of the market, and how the pandemic had taught everyone the same. He asked the participants to make themselves future-ready for any such kind of situation.



and training to officers of the Indian Army, paramilitary forces and central government agencies like Border Road Organisation to enhance their skills on working in Arunachal Pradesh. "Not only officers, we also plan to provide training to our legislators in this centre," he added.

Local MLAs Shri TseringTashi and Shri Jambey Tashi, including Shri Shishir Kumar Bajoria, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Shillong, Shri Prashant Lokhande, and Director, IIM Shillong, Dr. D.P. Goyal, among others were present on the occasion.

IIM Shillong hosts bikers of 'North East on Wheels Expedition', discusses ideas on rebuilding sustainable tourism

CeDNER of IIM Shillong hosted a group of 12 bikers from the Falcon group April 11, 2022. The bikers were part of the nine-day 'North East on Wheels Expedition' that aims to promote the Culture of North-Eastern States.



In an interaction programme, organised by IIM Shillong, the potential of promoting North East India's tourism through impactful yet exciting cross-cultural event campaigns was discussed. Local successful entrepreneurs, prominent personalities, and community leaders were present for the session.

The bikers, coming from different walks of life and from different parts of the country, unanimously agreed upon the fact that the North East has a lot to offer in terms of tourism and cultural diversity. They reiterated their awe for the scenic beauty of the region and the warmth the people of the region had to offer.

"One has to have the willpower, right temperament, experience and the courage to ride on a journey like this," said one of the bikers.

Speaking at the programme, Director of IIM Shillong, Prof. D.P. Goyal, praised the bikers and the organisers of the expedition for the initiative. He said, "You have to experience something to really know and feel it, and usually the experience is difficult to put into words. I noticed the bikers facing the same. The experience was so wholesome and spoke for itself, thus rendering them speechless."

"Events like this will help in bridging the gap, create awareness and generate interest among people to travel to the North East India and explore the rich and fulfilling experiences it has to offer," Prof Goyal added.



Talking about initiatives of IIM Shillong, Prof Goyal spoke about the contributions made by the institute to inculcate in the students the spirit of community building and understanding North Eastern culture through multiple projects that demanded them to interact and work with the locals. He also mentioned the MoU signed with Arunachal Pradesh and other initiatives taken to make IIM Shillong a pan North Eastern institution.

Organised by the Amazing Namaste Foundation, the expedition which ended on April 17, 2022, celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' with Dekho Apna Desh and National Road Safety as its other prime themes. The initiative aims to boost and promote North East India tourism, and help showcase the region and its potential through diverse lenses, while raising awareness among people about road safety measures and rules.

Shri B.L Verma Addresses 'Conclave on Investment Potential and Future Energy Needs of North East' in Shillong

The Ministry of DoNER and Government of Meghalaya in collaboration with IIM Shillong, North Eastern Council and Invest India (National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency) organised a "Conclave on Investment Potential & Future Energy Needs of North East" at the Auditorium of the North Eastern Council Secretariat, Shillong.

Prof DP Goyal, Director, IIM Shillong spoke at length about the areas and extent of scope wherein IIM Shillong can facilitate on the investment potential and future energy needs. IIM Shillong being a premier institute in the region has contributed to various community development programmes in the region.



“The three centres of IIM Shillong, namely CEDNER, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis and the Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre facilitate the growth of entrepreneurs, research, and is a data repository in the region,” he informed.

Prof Goyal emphasised on the need of sustainable growth of the region and elaborated how IIM Shillong can play the role of catalyst in this regard.

The conclave was a part of MDoNER's week-long North East Festival to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The aim is to leverage discussions on various aspects fundamental to the development of the North East region.

The highlight of the conclave included presentations by individual ministries on their projects and their thinking for the future. The individual ministries being Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Power, Civil Aviation, Telecom, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Railways.

ODE

प्रिय बहना

इतू सी तो थी तू,
जब मां ने तुझसे मिलाया था,
हम भी भला कितने बड़े थे,
जब पहली बार तुझे गोद में खेलाया था,
तेरी लाल - सुंदर सी सूरत को देख,
हमने अपने सपनों में खोई हुई दुनिया को जगाया था,
तेरे घुटने के बल चलने वाले तरीके को,
सबने बड़े प्यार से पुचकारा था,
खड़े होकर चल कर,
तूने पूरे घर को पर लगाया था,

तुझे हवा में उछालने पर,
मां मुझपर बहुत झल्लाई थी,
पिताजी से डांट भी पड़ी,
बुआ जब झूले में झुलाई थी
उस प्यारे से तोतली बोली को सुन,
सब लोगो ने खुल कर सराहा था,
तेरे पहले रक्षाबंधन वाले दिन तो,
पूरा माहौल बढ़ - चढ़ कर मुस्काया था,
उन नन्ही नाजुक सी उंगलियों से,
फ़कत एक सांस में अपने प्यार को दर्शाया था,
स्कूल ड्रेस में उस भोली सी सीरत को देख,
सबकी आंखें भर आई थीं,
छह घंटे के इंतजार के बाद,
स्वागत में मां ने हलवा पूड़ी बनाई थी,
इतू सी तो थी तू,
जब हमारे अस्तित्व ने हमलोगो को पुकारा था।

Anurag Pandey
WEMBA 21'

छठा मोड़

पथिक ने पीछे मुड़ के देखा - कोई नहीं है,
कहाँ गये सब लोग?
सिर्फ़ मीलों फैला हुआ सन्नाटा ही दिखाई दिया!
कौन रास्ते चल दिये है लोग, जिस पर हम अब तक चल न
सके?
किस मोड़ पर छूट गये है हमसाये?
क्या वो सपना था, या फिर मन की वहम?
न, वहम तो नहीं हो सकता;
हाँ, सपना ही था शायद, जो नींद खुली, सपने टूटे,
और सपनों के जहाँ सपनो में ही गुम हो गए।
पथिक ने आगे देखा-
सपनों का बड़ा सा एक काफ़िला चल रहा है।
एक बार सोचा कि आवाज़ दे ज़रा,
शायद कोई पल ठहर जाये,
और हमसाये जुड़ जाये पथिक के रास्ते;
इतने में फिर ध्यान आया, सपने ही तो हैं।
पथिक ने अपनी ओर देखा, कुरेद कुरेद के अपने अंदर देखा,
तो एक सवाल झांका धीरे से - आखिर इश्क़ के तीन गवाह
होते क्यों हैं हमेशा?
जवाब कुछ न मिला, पर पथिक को हमसफ़र मिल गये,
और वो चलता रहा, चलता रहा..... :-)

To be continued in next episode of NUKSA.....

Composer,
Achinta Kumar Sarmah,
Assistant Professor, IIM Shillong

