

Hello
Spring!

THE PINE CHRONICLE

News, Views and Creative Expressions

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FACULTY DESK

Happiness is a Choice

Happiness is a choice, not a result. Nothing will make you happy until you choose to be happy. – Ralph Marston

I congratulate the new batch as they step into this new chapter of their life and the senior batch for having successfully completed an important landmark in their journey—the Summer Internship. Young adults like you live in a time characterized by an abundance of technologies, information, and knowledge, myriad avenues for personal growth and career opportunities, extended social networks, and cross-cultural experiences. The abundance of options makes choice difficult. However, though difficult, happiness is often a choice that lies within your control and not merely a fleeting emotion. Realizing you are in command of your happiness gives you great power. Knowing what you want, understanding all the available options, and choosing the most satisfying (may not be optimal) option empowers you to choose happiness. People, places, situations, and objects are instrumental to your happiness. No one else is permitted to make choices regarding which people, places, situations, or objects bring you happiness except you.

Choosing happiness is a personal journey. There are some tips for making informed choices to be happy. Interpersonal relationships are the most significant source of happiness for your generation. Make deliberate choices toward making your relationships with family members, friends, significant others, and romantic partners better by embracing authenticity. The academic demands and career expectations can sometimes be overwhelming, leading to stress and anxiety. Let that not deter you from taking time for yourself, engaging in leisure activities, watching movies or series that bring you joy, playing games, pursuing hobbies, and seeking support when needed. We saw that even in the darkest times like the pandemic, people chose to find moments of joy through music, humor, service toward the needy, sharing positive stories, and spending time with family. Find time to relax and immerse yourself in the green, get enough sleep, and enjoy the holidays.

Always do a positive evaluation of self, life goals, memories, strengths, and accomplishments, while maintaining a realistic and balanced view of yourself. Our spiritual traditions have always

placed emphasis on awareness of the present—a quality closely associated with positive mental health. Therefore, increase your present-moment awareness. The constant focus on maximizing future outcomes or dwelling on past regrets can prevent you from fully engaging and finding contentment. Find joy in the here and now. Another conscious positive behavior is not comparing yourself to others. While drawing inspiration from others can be helpful, undue comparisons without assessment of contextual realities may lead to a never-ending pursuit of social status and external validation. This constant competition and comparison can lead to anxiety, stress, and a decreased sense of self-worth, ultimately impacting your happiness. Stay away from overthinking. Overthinking only consumes your time and mind. Choose to track and celebrate small achievements—achieving success, securing a top position in a course, winning competitions and matches, and overcoming obstacles. But never seek to maximize your achievements, possessions, or experiences. That might initially boost your temporary happiness but affect your long-term satisfaction. Gratitude plays a significant role in choosing happiness. Take time to express gratitude to people and count your blessings.

To choose happiness, you must shift your focus inward and prioritize your well-being. Start with self-awareness and self-reflection. Understanding your values, passions, and strengths allows you to make choices that align with your authentic self. You will have a profound sense of fulfillment and happiness when you live in accordance with your core values and passions. You must understand that failures and setbacks are a natural part of life's journey. Instead of being discouraged by obstacles, view them as opportunities for growth and learning. Be a HERO within. Choose to persevere toward goals and redirect ways to

ABOUT NUKSA

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Advisor Prof. D.P. Goyal

Editorial Team
Dr. Sudhir Kumar Jena,
Shri. Merlvin Jude Mukhim,
Shri. Narayan Chhetry

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goals (hope) in order to succeed; have confidence (efficacy) to succeed by putting in the required effort; bounce back from the adversity (resilience) to attain success; and make a positive attribution (optimism) about succeeding now and in the future. Always remember, happiness is within your reach—choose, embrace, and let it guide you.

As you step into or move forward toward becoming business leaders, it is necessary to understand the significance of happiness. Happy teams need happy leaders, and together they build wholesome organizations. As young adults, you are in a transition period in your life. So, it is all the more important for you to realize whether you or others control your happiness.



Prof. (Dr) Sitanshu Sekhar Das

TIMELINE

"Unleashing Collaboration: Where Industry Meets Academia for Innovation and Growth"

The PGPEX batch of 2023 recently organized Industry-Academia meet 2023 at IIM Shillong, drawing significant interest and participation from industry leaders, students from esteemed educational institutions, and corporates. *Over its 11-year history, the Industry-Academia meets have gained a strong reputation and are now regarded as one of the most anticipated business events in the country's management institutions.*



The primary objective of the event was to provide a unique platform for industry leaders, business heads, and policymakers to drive innovative ideas and foster a collective vision for a prosperous and revitalized India. With the theme of **"India Inc, Business Transformation, and Responsibilities"** the 2023 chapter focused on technology-driven innovative solutions and an entrepreneurial mindset to foster sustainable businesses and achieve India's 2030 vision.

Mr. Ravi Gupta, the former CEO of TATA Green Batteries, delivered the keynote address as the Chief Guest. He emphasized the importance of self-sufficiency and embracing entrepreneurship to propel India forward in the new decade. This first 2023 event brought together influential leaders and

distinguished personalities from various industries and backgrounds for speaker sessions and panel discussions. Notable speakers included **Mr. Raj Parameswaran**, Executive Vice President & Chief Growth Officer of Fulcrum Digital Inc., **Mr. Samrat Mandal**, IIM Shillong Alumnus and Director HR at FISERV, and **Mr. Vivek Sareen**, Director of Customer Solution at SAP India, a leader in business applications nationwide.

PGPEX is IIM Shillong's flagship one-year full-time residential MBA program, accredited by esteemed global agencies such as AACSB, and EFMD Global. The program consistently ranks in the Financial Times' "Top 100 Global MBA Programs." **The batch of 2023 comprises a diverse group of students with work experience ranging from 5 to 17 years in sectors such as IT, Energy & Power, Manufacturing, Shipping, Marketing, Healthcare, Analytics, Consulting, Automotive, and Finance.**

IIM Shillong welcomed its 4th batch of PGP Working Executives (2023 -2025)



Faculty Development Programme

A 5-day residential **Faculty Development Programme (FDP)** on General Management and Research Methodology for Faculty Members of Higher Education Institutions of the North Eastern Region (NER) was inaugurated at IIM Shillong campus. The FDP was conducted between 8th to 12th May, 2023 as a sponsored initiative of the APJ Abdul Kalam Centre. While delivering the inaugural address, Prof. D. P. Goyal, Director, IIM Shillong, elaborated on the effort as a "Training for Trainers" and highlighted the contributions a teacher makes to society and the nation. Prof. Goyal urged all participating faculty to learn how to create their own curriculum and teaching pedagogy towards value creation in their teaching areas. He further urged the participants to leverage their capacity through the 5-day FDP and learn from each other.



Prof. Suprateek Sarker, *Rolls-Royce Commonwealth Eminent Professor of Commerce, University of Virginia, USA, President, Association for Information Systems and Editor-in-Chief, Information Systems Research* visited IIM Shillong and had an interaction with faculty members on collaborative research opportunities.



“Emerging Business Leaders” of North Eastern Region

Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre under IIM Shillong organized a five-day sponsored residential bootcamp for the **“Emerging Business Leaders” of North Eastern Region.**

55 young entrepreneurs underwent a five-day bootcamp funded as an initiative of Incubation & Enterprise Support Centre (IESC) of IIM Shillong for the development of NE Region. The bootcamp was designed to orient students towards entrepreneurship, ideation, innovation, business modelling, market, economy, & leadership traits with an overall thrust on developing entrepreneurial spirit.



Speaking at the inaugural session, Prof. D.P Goyal, Director IIM Shillong encouraged participants to take calculated risks, move beyond their comfort zone and build the habit of an entrepreneurial mindset. Prof. Goyal stressed on the importance of changing mindset, having a vision and commitment to achieve bigger. He urged all participants to take maximum benefit of their stay at the Institute, interact with the experienced faculty members, utilize available resources & bring a transformative change.

Immersion in the Greens

Have you ever felt the urge to get melted into nature...yes, they did, when they first went on a trek to **David Scott Trail**. Embarking on a trekking adventure is not for a faint heart. It demands perseverance, determination, and the willingness to push beyond one’s limit. It was physically challenging, tiring every muscle. Yet, amidst these hardships lies the visual beauty of lush green mountains, partially veiled by the clouds, as if playing a game of love, teasing the blue sky above.

On that mid-summer day, the sun smiled upon the huge mountains, while the symphony of birds enveloped the heart, stirring a warming feel deep within the soul. The participants started from the top of a mountain with steep steps leading to the valley of beauty, where slippery stones, scorching sun, and insects became formidable

obstacles. Each step forward demanded physical strength and mental resilience. However, as they pushed on through these hardships, they were rewarded with the splendour of majestic hills and their peaks piercing the sapphire sky. The pristine lake visibly mesmerized their eyes and tempted them to dive deep into the magnanimous turquoise depths.



As the trek approached an uphill climb, the weight of the backpacks seemed to increase with every passing mile and burdened the weary shoulders. The Maggi point in-between, however, gave the participants a much-needed rejuvenation. And yet, as they trekked through the valley of unending dimension of the trail, the spirit of the fellow cohort became a source of motivation and inspiration. It may be said that they witnessed acts of kindness, as individuals offered a helping hand, shared supplies, or provided words of encouragement. The cold breeze that gently grazed their faces seemed to wither away the tiredness, as if nature herself was aiding them, urging each of them to move forward. The shared goal of conquering the trek created a sense of unity and uplifted the spirit of each member of the cohort. *As they crossed the finish line together, they, for sure experienced an unexplainable sense of relief, togetherness, and a lasting bond.*



OFFBEAT

WHAT DO WE REALLY BUILD, AS DATA SCIENTISTS?

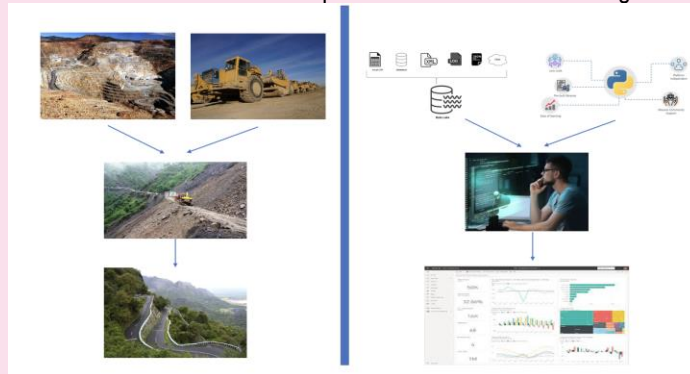
My father has been a veteran civil engineer. He has built 1000s of kms of roads, 100s of bridges across plains, hills, mountains & rivers, connecting millions of people across time & space. When I was young, I too was enamoured by the fervour of engineering and aspired to become an engineer when I grew up. During my school days, I developed a liking towards subjects such

as Maths & Physics, so much so that I would often get books of higher classes from the library and read up chapters on motion, gravity & acceleration.

Fast forward to a decade and a half later, I got trained as a data scientist and got into building data-related products and services. 2 years into my first job, I was enjoying it and found it an exciting field to be working in. One day my father asked - 'What do you help build?'. It was a naive straightforward question. I answered what I did everyday at my job - pull data, apply various algorithms & business-defined logic, get outputs that feed into dashboards etc. However, whatever I came up with, or said, somehow didn't feel profound enough. I couldn't give an answer concrete enough like my father as a civil engineer would perhaps - like roads, bridges or culverts. So, 'What do I really build?' - I asked myself this question. On a road trip across Meghalaya, I was going through the mist-covered mountains towards Dawki, marvelling at the peaks and troughs painted by the hills against the blue sky just like 3D bar plots in excel. The serpentine roads crisscrossed the mountains and I saw a set of engineers with huge earth movers & JCBs constructing a new road on the shoulder of a hill.

As my gaze stretched upon still untouched stretches of the mountain ranges in front of me, I thought of the first stretch of road that must have been built on these beautiful lands. I imagined a set of brave engineers that once looked at this terrain, with no road, no utility, but only the one engineered up in their minds. Moving 1000s' of tons of earth, water & machinery, they got this road made. My father's question came back to me - 'What do I help build?'

The piled-up dirt sand & the stones by the side of the road, reminded me of the raw data points that would arrive in BigQuery tables in Google Cloud Platform data lake. The huge cranes & earth movers remind me of the tools such as AI Notebooks & Data Studio, that I would use to mine & shape the data into charts & insights.



To answer the question - 'What do I help build?' - As a data scientist, my job is to convert data into Actionable Insights. A data science team supports decision-making by bringing up insights from historical data and predictions in probabilities for the future.

This is conventional data science at work.

At the start of the last decade, data was as quipped as the new 'Oil'. And over the last decade or so, this 'Oil' has extensively been refined to drive many utilities - business decision-making, company strategy, customer insights, operations optimization, cost reductions - all are now driven with data at its heart.

There are also pioneers in this field who have tried to get harder things done. Such as the fields of Computer Vision, Natural

Language Processing (NLP) and Generative AI. Data Scientists who looked at the amount of data getting generated & stored by virtue of the internet, and asked the question - can we build machines that can mimic & help humans in different ways by virtue of learning patterns from this data?. Machines trained to drive cars autonomously, recognise & categorise X-rays into malignant or benevolent diagnoses, or predict the next word in a sentence, with almost human-like performance, are all the wonders of modern Data Science & Machine Learning.

Technological advancements in communications, computation & storage have enabled us to build tools that we use everyday that make our lives better. Google Maps, language translation, weather & hazard alerts - All of these utilities have data at its heart, and machines trained to learn patterns from this data, to be able to perform everyday tasks – things data scientists help build.

Imagine a day without the Internet or Google. Similarly, it's hard to imagine a future without data. Digital infrastructure of the 21st century is changing humanity in how we work, make decisions & spend our time. In helping empower people and make smarter decisions in day-to-day lives, Data Scientists play a pivotal role in building the future as have civil engineers in centuries - building roads, bridges and dams.

Rhitamjeet Saharia
MBAWE21

w21rhitamjeet@iimshillong.ac.in

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE - ARTICLE 44

The framers of the Indian Constitution, led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other visionaries, sought to create a progressive and inclusive society that transcended religious divisions. They recognized the existence of personal laws based on religious practices and customs, which varied among different communities. The intent behind envisioning a Uniform Civil Code to me, is to unify these diverse personal laws into a common set of civil laws applicable to all citizens, thus ensuring gender equality, individual rights, and social harmony.

In present times, India's legal system continues to operate under personal laws that govern matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption, specific to different religious communities. The absence of a Uniform Civil Code has led to inconsistencies and disparities in the treatment of individuals belonging to different religions, particularly concerning matters related to women's rights, divorce, and inheritance.

The debate surrounding the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code primarily revolves around two key aspects: cultural diversity and individual rights. Critics argue that implementing a UCC may undermine cultural and religious autonomy, as personal laws have been an integral part of India's social fabric for centuries. They contend that respecting the diversity of practices and beliefs is crucial for preserving India's pluralistic identity. However, proponents of a UCC argue that it is essential for achieving gender justice and ensuring the fundamental rights of all citizens. They emphasize that a UCC would promote equality before the law and eliminate discriminatory practices embedded within personal laws. Advocates also highlight the need to address issues such as

