

NUKSA THE PINE CHRONICLE

NEWS, VIEWS & CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

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**U.S. Consul General Melinda Pavek
Inspires Collaboration and Learning
at IIM Shillong**

ABOUT NUKSA

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

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COVER STORY

U.S. Consul General Melinda Pavek Inspires Collaboration and Learning at IIM Shillong



U.S. Consul General Melinda Pavek of the General Consulate in Kolkata recently visited the Institute to engage in a dialogue concerning trade relations and the vast potential of academic collaboration between the United States and India.

Drawing upon her diverse background in both diplomatic and corporate spheres, Consul General Pavek shared her journey to her current position, highlighting key roles such as Counselor for Science, Innovation and Development at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and Deputy Chief of Mission in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. Her extensive experience, ranging from public service as a Foreign Service Officer to corporate roles at Johnson & Johnson, provided valuable insights into the intricacies of international relations.

One notable initiative discussed during the session was the University of Arizona's endeavour to foster learning for 100 million learners. Consul General Pavek highlighted the importance of initiatives like "100,000 Strong in the Americas," aimed at enhancing regional education cooperation and preparing students for the global workforce of the 21st century and how IIM Shillong's collaboration with this initiative



would potentially be the key to unlocking further academic collaboration.

Moreover, Consul General Pavek highlighted the potential for mutual learning between the indigenous populations of both countries, emphasising that understanding and learning from each other's cultural heritage can drive growth and prosperity in bilateral trade.

Students and faculty members of the institute engaged enthusiastically, expressing curiosity about cultural differences in academia and showing keen interest in STEM-based research grants and opportunities available to scholars.

The session further included faculty interaction, focusing on collaborative efforts with foreign universities to enhance learning and knowledge transfer.

The visit concluded with a symbolic tree plantation and a campus tour, leaving a lasting impression on all participants. Consul General Pavek's visit proved to be enlightening and enriching, paving the way for further collaboration and exchange between the United States and India in the field of education and beyond.

FACULTY DESK

Future-Proofing Education: Role of the Educator in the Future of Education

During the digital revolution, where the pervasive influence of artificial intelligence and digitization permeates every aspect of society, even fields as intricate as neuroscience stand on the brink of unprecedented discovery. This wave of innovation not only threatens to replace low-skilled jobs but also promises the emergence of entirely new industries, heralding a transformation in the fabric of our daily lives. Consequently, citizens find themselves at a crossroads, no longer able to rely on the paradigms of the industrial age. Instead, they must adapt by acquiring fresh skills and competencies.

Traditionally, education was confined to the realm of school-age children and youth, typically within formal settings. However, society is undergoing a profound transition towards a learner-centric paradigm. In this new landscape, the authority to learn shifts from the teacher to the students themselves. Throughout their lives, individuals now have the autonomy to select the content and methods that best align with their needs and interests. This shift prompts critical questions about the role of teaching in empowering citizens for active and continuous learning and how educators must evolve to meet this challenge.

Rethinking the role of teachers is pivotal for realizing educational reforms. Educators must reimagine themselves not merely as dispensers of knowledge, but as dynamic agents shaping both education and society. In a world experiencing exponential change, schools face the imperative of preparing students for the dynamically new environment they will encounter upon graduation. Yet, by fixating on short-term objectives such as preparing students for the next unit or semester, we risk overlooking the obsolescence of our current educational system.

To effect meaningful change, we must first



establish a clear goal for education in the 21st century, one that transcends the fleeting trends of the present and anticipates the needs of the future. This requires a shift in perspective similar to that of a quarterback surveying the football field, perceiving not where things are, but where they are headed. We must acknowledge the paradigm paralysis that often accompanies radical change and be willing to let go of entrenched ideas and practices.

Our vision for the future of education entails a departure from traditional norms— from textbooks and brick-and-mortar classrooms to a model where learning occurs whenever and wherever it can best happen. Such a seismic shift will inevitably compel teachers to reexamine their role in student learning. As educators navigate this new terrain, they must identify enduring principles amidst the flux of change.

One such principle is the imperative to customize learning for each learner. While young children possess an innate capacity for intuitive learning, traditional schooling often fails to accommodate individual differences. Our current educational system, structured around a standardized approach to instruction, undermines engagement and impedes genuine learning. By harnessing technology to provide individualized instruction,

we can shift the focus from age-based achievement to mastery-based learning.

Moreover, as technology blurs the distinction between virtual and physical realities, educators must embrace the potential of virtual learning environments to transcend geographical constraints. Virtual communication and collaboration will soon rival face-to-face interactions, enabling learning to occur anytime, anywhere. This newfound flexibility will democratize education, making learning more relevant and accessible to all.

Additionally, learning in the twenty-first century will be nonlinear, mirroring the spontaneous and exploratory nature of human cognition. Technology will enable intelligent tracking of individual progress, allowing students to pursue their interests across disciplinary boundaries. Educators, in turn, must transition from classroom managers to facilitators, guiding students along their unique learning pathways.

Collaboration stands as a cornerstone in the fabric of modern society. From individuals working together in networked games to students spanning the globe to tackle school projects, the ethos of cooperation permeates every aspect of our lives. In today's workplace, workers seamlessly collaborate using diverse online tools, while even competing businesses find synergy in collective efforts. Success in both life and the contemporary job market hinges on the ability to collaborate effectively. Students must adapt to working with virtual partners and participating in remote workgroups, transcending temporal and geographical barriers. Moreover, collaboration assumes a central role in instruction, facilitated by innovative online tools and SMART tutors. Experts from various domains can now virtually engage with students, sharing insights and aiding teachers in course content delivery. Thus, the responsibility for instruction evolves into a shared endeavor between educators and the broader community.

Recent advancements in brain research underscore the holistic nature of high-level cognition. While traditional education emphasized left-brain

activities such as reading, writing and arithmetic, the advent of the Information Age demands a broader skill set. Success in today's automated and outsourced landscape necessitates the cultivation of right-brain abilities, such as information processing and problem-solving. As students hone their left-brain skills in logical analysis, they must also develop right-brain competencies to discern patterns, forge connections and comprehend the bigger picture.

The traditional model of education, characterized by teacher-led instruction and rote memorization, falls short in fostering meaningful learning experiences. Despite the emphasis on content delivery and standardized testing, students often fail to retain knowledge beyond the examination period. Real learning, however, occurs through discovery—an endeavor often pursued outside the confines of the classroom. As young people explore topics of personal interest online, they engage in authentic discovery learning experiences. To bridge this gap, educators must embrace alternative instructional methods that promote exploration and inquiry within the classroom setting.

In contrast to content-centric instruction, effective teaching entails crafting engaging learning activities that foster relevance and critical thinking skills. By integrating right-brain activities into the curriculum, educators can cultivate holistic thinking among students. For instance, using paintings to illustrate scientific concepts not only reinforces course content but also nurtures the whole mind that thinks. In this context, teachers assume the role of problem crafters, designing tasks that stimulate high-level cognitive processes while maintaining relevance to real-world contexts. Training in problem-based instruction is imperative to equip educators with the tools necessary for facilitating meaningful learning experiences.

Traditional assessment methods that are centred around written tests and standardized examinations, offer only a partial glimpse into student learning. While these tools gauge

memorisation and content recall, they fail to capture the breadth of a student's abilities. A holistic approach to evaluation considers a diverse range of factors, akin to how a driving examiner assesses a learner's readiness for the road. By incorporating performance-based assessments and real-world applications, educators can paint a comprehensive picture of student learning, transcending the limitations of traditional testing paradigms.

In conclusion, the future of education demands a radical departure from the conventions of the

past. By embracing learner-centric pedagogies, leveraging technology to personalize learning, and adapting to the fluidity of modern learning environments, educators can empower students to thrive in an ever-changing world. As we embark on this journey of educational transformation, let us heed the call to reimagine education not as a static institution, but as a dynamic ecosystem of lifelong learning and growth.

Prof. Ashutosh Murti

PHOTO GALLERY

GLIMPSES OF MARCH EVENTS



TIMELINE

India Powers Up: Technade Ignites "Atmanirbhar" Semiconductor Mission



A pre-inauguration event held at IIM Shillong marked the beginning of "Viksit Bharat 2047," an ambitious initiative aimed at propelling India to the forefront of the global semiconductor industry.

The event featured Dr. Gautam Purohit's address, highlighting the core aspects of chip-making. He explained the VLSI process, which involves the meticulous integration of numerous transistors onto a single chip. He emphasised India's goal of leading in "System-level" design, the pinnacle of chip design complexity. FinFET architecture and 28 nanometer technology were identified as India's focus areas.

The mission is to establish a robust semiconductor ecosystem, encompassing manufacturing and assembly facilities across three locations in Assam, Gujarat and potentially other regions in the future. This initiative aspires to place India among the top ten countries in the global semiconductor production.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed a powerful address by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister for Railways and IT. He acknowledged India's consistent efforts since 1962 in establishing semiconductor facilities. Highlighting the transformative potential of this initiative, he emphasised the government's commitment to "Make in India, Make for India" through strategic partnerships with global leaders like Japan. He further



stressed that a robust semiconductor industry forms the foundation for the digital age and India is poised to play a defining role in this domain.

The Honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel and Honourable Chief Minister of Assam Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma also addressed the gathering, expressing their gratitude for the central government's focus on the previously neglected region. They emphasised that technological advancements are progressing the state's economic landscape and fostering a strong ecosystem for future growth.

Our Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi asserted India's commitment to development, citing foundational efforts as key. With confidence in democracy, he affirmed India's ability to deliver on promises. This highlights accountability and reflects the nation's determination to progress through transformative initiatives and inclusive governance.

This event marks a significant step towards India's aspirations in the semiconductor sector. The focus on cutting-edge technologies, strategic partnerships and pan-India development signifies the government's commitment to realising the vision of "Viksit Bharat" - a technologically advanced and self-reliant India by 2047.

NIRVANA '24: IIM Shillong's Cultural Extravaganza Draws Acclaim

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong announces the successful conclusion of its much-anticipated annual cultural fest, NIRVANA '24. This year's edition, held from the 3rd to 4th of March, 2024, showcased a vibrant blend of talent, creativity and cultural diversity both offline and online.

NIRVANA '24 brought together students from over 250 colleges across tiers 1 to 3, creating an enriching platform for cultural exchange and artistic prowess. The online segment, hosted on the Unstop platform, garnered an overwhelming response with over 400 registrations across four engaging competitions.

The offline component of NIRVANA '24 witnessed an impressive footfall of attendees, including students, scholars, faculties and staff. The event sponsored by SBI as the Title Sponsor and PNB as the co-sponsor contributed significantly to the success of the event.

The festivities commenced with a side-splitting performance by renowned comedian Devesh Dixit, setting a jovial tone for the event. DJ BODMAS then took over the decks, treating the audience to an electrifying blend of EDM and Bollywood beats, keeping spirits high well into the night.

Day two of NIRVANA '24 featured a soul-stirring performance by the Meghalaya Grassroots Music Project, led by the talented Bahun Marwein and her band, who captivated the audience with their rendition of Khasi original songs. The evening reached its crescendo with an electrifying performance by internationally renowned singer Ash King, also known as Ashutosh Ganguly, who serenaded the crowd with a mix of his original compositions and timeless classics, evoking waves of euphoria amongst the audience.



Empowering Success: Insights from the Corporate Alumni Workshop

In a recent highlight, the Institute hosted a Corporate Alumni Workshop led by Mr. Ansuman Mishra, Senior Account Director at LinkedIn. With over nine years of experience in B2B sales and account management, Mr. Mishra brought invaluable insights to the forefront, guiding participants through the intricacies of excelling in B2B sales and negotiation strategies.

The workshop was a comprehensive exploration into key aspects of sales outreach, deep discovery, forecasting, crafting compelling value propositions and aligning strategies with customer objectives. Participants were immersed in interactive sessions, where they learned to navigate the complexities of the corporate world with finesse and strategic acumen.

One of the pivotal themes of the workshop was the concept of co-creation, emphasizing the collaborative partnership between businesses and clients to achieve shared success. Attendees walked away with a deeper understanding of effective sales methodologies and honed negotiation skills, poised to make a tangible impact in their respective fields.

Moreover, the workshop fostered an environment of networking and camaraderie among alumni and participants, further enriching the learning experience. As our institute continues to nurture and support the growth of its alumni network, events like the Corporate Alumni Workshop serve as invaluable platforms for continuous learning and professional development.



Fostering Global Partnerships: Insights from the Pangea Series

The International Relations Committee of IIM Shillong organised the Pangea Series on the 15th of March, 2024. The Pangea Series is one of the flagship events of the International Relations Committee of IIM Shillong that aims to bring together notable dignitaries from the field of international relations to foster global understanding and collaboration. For this year, we had Mr Hugh Boylan, Australian Consul General, Kolkata. He focussed on the dynamic and evolving landscape of Australia-India relations, with a special emphasis on bilateral trade and investment opportunities between Australia and Northeast

India. Mr. Boylan, with his extensive experience in international trade and diplomacy, delved into the strategic synergies that can be harnessed to foster mutual growth and development. The session shed light on existing initiatives and agreements, combined with exploring prospects that hold the promise of bolstering the economic and strategic bonds between Australia and Northeast India.

Following the address, an interactive question and answer session allowed Mr. Boylan to engage directly with students and faculty. The interaction facilitated

an exchange of ideas and fostered a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in international trade and diplomacy. Mr. Boylan's openness to addressing questions and sharing

his insights offered attendees an opportunity to learn from a seasoned diplomat, enriching their perspective on global economic and strategic affairs.



Podium Session with Nidhi Sethi

Ms. Nidhi Sethi has had a career spanning over a decade marked by remarkable achievements and transformative contributions. Currently holding the position of Director of Strategy and Transformation at NatWest Group, her expertise and leadership have been instrumental in driving business transformations.

With a background encompassing pivotal roles at Retail CDIO, S and P Global and IHS Markit, Ms. Sethi's journey epitomises resilience and determination. Her strategic acumen and unwavering resolve have been the cornerstone of her success, evident in her significant contributions to business transformation initiatives.

During the session, Ms. Nidhi Sethi shared insights

from her personal growth journey, captivating her audience with tales of overcoming challenges and embracing opportunities. Her narrative resonated deeply, highlighting the importance of perseverance and self-belief in achieving professional success. Through her personal anecdotes and insights, she captivated the audience, illustrating how challenges can be transformed into opportunities for growth.

Students were deeply inspired by Ms. Sethi's demonstration of resilience and determination, as she navigated the complexities of the corporate world with unwavering resolve. Her journey resonated with aspiring professionals, instilling in them a sense of courage and self-belief to pursue their own aspirations.



Exploring Career Evolution: Insights from the Synergy Session with Mr. Shaleen Chaturvedi

The recent Synergy session at the institute, featuring Mr. Shaleen Chaturvedi, a distinguished leader in talent and career development, proved to be an insightful and thought-provoking experience for students. With a wealth of experience in his field, Mr. Chaturvedi led a captivating discussion on "The Evolution of You: Career Building with Purpose."

Throughout the session, Mr. Chaturvedi emphasised the importance of soft skills and relevant competencies in today's evolving job market. He challenged conventional notions by highlighting that talent alone is not sufficient for success. Instead, he emphasised the significance of purpose-driven career building and the cultivation of a diverse skill set.

Mr. Chaturvedi's engaging presentation left students intrigued and introspective, as he encouraged them to reflect on their own career trajectories and aspirations. By delving into the intricacies of career development, he provided valuable insights that kept students on their toes, sparking discussions.

Ultimately, Mr. Chaturvedi's session left a lasting impact on students, prompting them to reevaluate their approach to career planning and development. Armed with newfound knowledge and perspectives, students left the session inspired and motivated to embark on their professional journeys with purpose and intention.



Memories in Motion: A Farewell to Remember at IIM Shillong

The farewell event at IIM Shillong, where the Batch of 2023 bid adieu to the Batch of 2022, was a two-day extravaganza filled with nostalgia, laughter and heartfelt farewells.

On the first day, emotions ran high as memories were re-lived during the t-shirt signing ceremony and stroll down memory lane. Batchmates reminisced about their journey together, signing t-shirts as a token of their enduring friendship and shared experiences.

The second day was a vibrant celebration, with various clubs and committees like Alumni Committee, Hostel Committee, Junior and Senior Cultural Committee, et cetera showcasing their talents. From heartfelt speeches to energetic dance performances, every moment was filled with camaraderie and fond memories.

As the night progressed, the DJ spun tunes that had everyone hitting the dance floor, letting loose and enjoying each other's company one last time before parting ways. Laughter, music Marchand the echoes of heartfelt goodbyes filled the air, making the farewell at IIM Shillong a truly unforgettable event for both the batches.



Fostering Future Leaders: The Transformative MDP Empowering Educators

In a significant development for the educational sector, a five-day transformative Management Development Program (MDP) titled "Nurturing Future Leadership Program" has been initiated with the support of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. This pioneering initiative aims to equip educators from various reputed institutes across the nation with essential leadership skills, thereby enhancing their capacity to excel in both research and teaching endeavours.

The program, designed to empower faculty participants, seeks to foster a brighter future by cultivating effective leadership traits among educators. By offering a comprehensive curriculum focused on leadership development, the MDP endeavours to enable participants to navigate the

complexities of the educational landscape with confidence and competence.

With faculty members hailing from diverse academic backgrounds and institutions of repute, the program promises to be a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and skill enhancement. Through interactive sessions, workshops and collaborative activities, participants will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of leadership principles and explore innovative approaches to pedagogy and research.

Ultimately, the "Nurturing Future Leadership Program" aspires to contribute significantly to the professional growth and development of educators nationwide, thereby enriching the educational ecosystem and paving the way for a brighter future in the field of education.



Empowering First-Time Voters: The 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye' Campaign

The Student Council of #IIMShillong recently organised a dynamic campaign centred around the theme "Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye." The initiative aimed to actively engage and motivate first-time voters, accentuating the significance of their participation in the electoral process.

With a focused objective of inspiring young voters, the campaign sought to underscore the importance of exercising democratic rights and their role in shaping the collective well-being of society. Through various interactive sessions, workshops and awareness drives, the

Student Council endeavoured to instil a sense of responsibility and empowerment among the youth

A digital poster with a purple background. At the top, there are logos for the Ministry of Education, Election Commission of India, IIM Shillong, and the 15th anniversary of the Indian Institute of Management. The main text reads "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure." Below this, there are icons for various apps to install (Election Commission of India, My Voter, etc.) and a QR code. At the bottom, there are social media handles for the Election Commission of India and IIM Shillong. On the right side, there is a large graphic of a hand pointing upwards.

The campaign, characterised by its enthusiasm and inclusivity, resonated strongly with the student community, garnering widespread support and participation. By fostering a culture of civic engagement and encouraging active involvement in the democratic process, the initiative epitomised the spirit of youth empowerment and social responsibility.

As the nation gears up for upcoming elections, the "Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye" campaign stands as a testament to the Student Council's commitment

to nurturing informed and responsible citizens who actively contribute to the nation's progress and development.



Unlocking Innovation: ONGC's Management Development Program on Creative Problem-Solving with Design Thinking

ONGC Limited (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd) is currently hosting a five-day Management Development Program (MDP) focused on "Creative Problem-Solving using Design Thinking." The program targets Senior, Middle and Junior Management Officials, emphasising the critical role of design thinking in fostering innovation and enhancing

problem-solving capabilities. As industries navigate rapidly evolving market dynamics, embracing design thinking methodologies becomes imperative to adapt and thrive. Through this initiative, ONGC aims to equip its management officials with the skills and mindset necessary to drive innovation and tackle complex challenges effectively.



Successful Conclusion of Three-Day Training on Contract Management and Contractual Dispute Resolution under World Bank Financed Projects

The recently concluded three-day training on 'Contract Management and Contractual Dispute Resolution' marked a significant milestone in professional development. Hosted with the objective of equipping participants with essential problem-solving skills and strategies for preventing issues, the session proved highly beneficial. Through interactive workshops and expert-led discussions, attendees gained valuable insights into effective contract management practices and methods for resolving disputes. The training's success underscores its importance in enhancing participants' capabilities and fostering a proactive

approach to handling contractual matters. As participants return to their respective roles, they are better equipped to navigate challenges and contribute to organisational success.



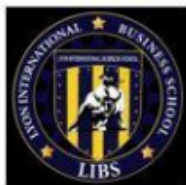


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