

NUKSA THE PINE CHRONICLE

NEWS, VIEWS & CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

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A Celebration of Excellence, Leadership, and New
Beginnings

ABOUT NUKSA

Nuksa The Pine Chronicle is the
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Shillong.

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COVER STORY

17th Annual Convocation of IIM Shillong

A Celebration of Excellence, Leadership, and New Beginnings



The 17th Annual Convocation of Indian Institute of Management Shillong marked a defining milestone in the academic journey of its graduating cohorts, bringing together students, faculty, distinguished guests, alumni, and families in a celebration of perseverance, achievement, and aspiration. The occasion reflected not only the culmination of years of rigorous academic pursuit, but also the beginning of a new chapter shaped by purpose, leadership, and responsibility.

The ceremony was graced by Shri Anoop Mehta, President of Bharat Diamond Bourse, who delivered the Convocation Address as the Hon'ble Chief Guest. In an insightful and deeply reflective address, he emphasized the growing importance of ethical leadership in navigating an increasingly dynamic and interconnected world. Highlighting the need for resilience, consistency of purpose, and value-driven decision-making, he encouraged the graduating cohort to pursue excellence while remaining grounded in integrity and social responsibility. His address underscored the significance of building sustainable ecosystems through principled leadership and meaningful impact.



Adding further depth to the occasion, Shri Vijay Kedia, Managing Director of Kedia Securities Pvt. Ltd., delivered the Special Address as the Guest of Honour. Sharing insights drawn from years of entrepreneurial and investment experience, he spoke about the importance of adaptability, conviction, and long-term thinking in achieving enduring success. Encouraging students to recognize opportunities early and make informed decisions with clarity and courage, he inspired the graduating cohort to approach their careers with strategic vision and resilience in the face of uncertainty.

The ceremony commenced with the Welcome Address by Shri Shishir Kumar Bajoria, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Shillong. In his address, he reflected upon the significance of convocation as a transformative milestone and acknowledged the dedication, discipline, and perseverance demonstrated by the graduating students throughout their academic journeys. Welcoming them into the larger fraternity of alumni and professionals, he encouraged the graduates to uphold the values of ethical leadership and contribute meaningfully to society and their respective fields.

Prof. Naliniprava Tripathy, Director (I/C), IIM Shillong, presented the Academic Report of the Institute, highlighting the institution's achievements and progress over the past year. The report showcased advancements across academics, research, institutional development, infrastructure, and governance, reaffirming the Institute's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and long-term strategic growth. The report also reflected IIM Shillong's continued pursuit of holistic management education rooted in sustainability, leadership, and societal impact.

The convocation also celebrated the conferment of PhD degrees upon the doctoral scholars of the Institute. Their achievement stands as a testament to years of rigorous research, intellectual inquiry, and unwavering commitment to advancing knowledge. The Institute congratulated the scholars for their significant academic contributions and expressed confidence that their work would continue to shape academia, industry, and public policy with insight and impact.

The graduating cohort of the Post Graduate Programme (PGP 2024–26) was congratulated on successfully completing a transformative journey marked by academic rigor, collaborative learning, leadership development, and personal growth. As they move forward into the next phase of their professional lives, they carry with them the values and experiences nurtured during their time at the Institute.

The convocation also recognized the accomplishments of the graduating cohort of the Post Graduate Programme for Executives (PGPEX 2025–26). Balancing demanding professional responsibilities alongside rigorous academics, the cohort exemplified resilience, dedication, and a strong pursuit of continuous growth. Similarly, the graduating students of the Post Graduate Programme for Working Executives (PGPWE 2024–26) were acknowledged for their exceptional commitment and perseverance in pursuing

academic advancement while continuing their professional engagements.

Academic excellence and all-round achievement were celebrated through the conferment of medals and awards upon outstanding students. Ms. Priya Agarwal was awarded the Chairman's Gold Medal and the Shri Rathindranath Datta Gold Medal for the PGP (2024–26) in recognition of securing the highest CGPA. Her achievement reflects remarkable consistency, discipline, and academic excellence.

Ms. Nityaa Gudur, Mr. Ranit Das, and Mr. Yashraj Ashish Kanitkar were awarded the Institute Silver Medal for securing the second-highest CGPA in the PGP programme, reflecting their dedication to academic excellence and sustained performance.

Mr. Divyan Aggarwal received the Director's Gold Medal and the Prof. Ashoke K. Dutta Gold Medal for being adjudged the Best All-Rounder in the PGP (2024–26). His accomplishment reflected a rare combination of academic distinction, leadership qualities, and meaningful contributions to campus life.

Mr. Ajay MP was awarded the Institute Gold Medal in recognition of his positive contributions to campus life, highlighting his active engagement, leadership, and commitment to enriching the Institute community.

Among the PGPEX cohort, Mr. Rixon Xavier Thaikattil received the Chairman's Gold Medal for securing the highest CGPA, while Mr. Bishal Ram was awarded the Director's Gold Medal for being the Best All-Rounder. Their accomplishments reflected an outstanding blend of academic rigor, leadership, and professional excellence.

Mr. Prithwjit Dasgupta was awarded the Chairman's Gold Medal for the PGPWE (2024–26) in recognition of achieving the highest CGPA in his cohort. His achievement demonstrated exceptional discipline and the ability to maintain academic excellence alongside

significant professional commitments.

Beyond the formal proceedings, the convocation stood as a day of pride, reflection, and celebration—capturing memories forged through years of learning, friendships, challenges, and transformation. It marked not merely the conferment of degrees, but the culmination of a deeply enriching journey that shaped individuals into future leaders prepared

to contribute meaningfully to organizations, communities, and society at large.

As the graduating students step into new professional and personal journeys, the 17th Annual Convocation of IIM Shillong will remain a cherished milestone—one that celebrates achievement while inspiring the pursuit of purpose, excellence, and impact in the years ahead.

PHOTO GALLERY

GLIMPSES OF APRIL EVENTS



TIMELINE

PGPEX 2026–27 Commencement Day at IIM Shillong



The beginning of a new academic journey was marked as the PGPEX 2026–27 cohort formally commenced its programme at Indian Institute of Management Shillong. The Commencement Day brought together participants, faculty members, and institutional leadership in a shared moment of aspiration, learning, and purpose, setting the tone for an enriching and transformative experience ahead.

Prof. Kailash Choudhary, Member, Admissions Committee, presented the profile of the incoming cohort, highlighting the diversity of professional backgrounds and experiences represented within the batch. He underscored the significance of continuing higher education as a pathway for both professional advancement and personal growth.

Providing an overview of the programme structure, Prof. Sitanshu Sekhar Das, Chairperson, PGPEX, outlined key components of the curriculum, including international immersion opportunities and live projects designed to foster experiential learning. Emphasising the importance of collaborative engagement, he noted that the value of the programme extends beyond the classroom, with peer learning playing a vital role in shaping perspectives and enriching the overall academic journey.

Welcoming the participants to the Institute,

Prof. Naliniprava Tripathy, Director (I/C), IIM Shillong, appreciated the cohort’s commitment to continuing their academic pursuits alongside professional responsibilities. Reflecting on the Institute’s legacy of nurturing ethical and responsible leadership, she highlighted the importance of initiatives such as the Community Immersion Program in fostering social sensitivity and broader understanding. She also spoke about the Institute’s collaborations, centres, and initiatives supporting research, consultancy, training, and capacity building, while emphasising collaboration, empathy, equity, and self-awareness as essential attributes of future leaders.

The occasion was further enriched by the address of the Guest of Honour, Shri Ambarish Dasgupta, Senior Partner and Founder of Intueri Consulting LLP. Congratulating the incoming cohort, he reflected on the Institute’s emphasis on sustainability, particularly in the context of North East India and Asia. Highlighting agility as an increasingly important attribute in today’s business environment, he encouraged participants to cultivate the ability to ask meaningful questions, derive deeper insights, and uphold ethics as a guiding organisational value.

Delivering the Chief Guest Address, Prof. Manmohan Prasad Gupta, Director of Indian

Institute of Management Lucknow, reflected on the evolving landscape of management education and the enduring legacy of the IIMs in shaping future business leaders. He spoke about the transformative influence of the internet and artificial intelligence on learning systems and business models, while also underscoring the importance of emerging technologies such as robotics and Industry 5.0 in driving sustainable business development. Encouraging participants to remain adaptive and future-ready, he highlighted the need to continuously engage with technological advancements and evolving

business ecosystems.

The session concluded with a pledge ceremony led by Prof. Rohit Joshi, Dean Academics, reinforcing the values of ethical conduct, collaborative learning, and responsible leadership that form the foundation of the PGPEX journey at IIM Shillong.

As the PGPEX 2026–27 cohort embarks on this new chapter, the commencement ceremony reflected the Institute's continued commitment to fostering thoughtful, resilient, and socially conscious leaders prepared to navigate the complexities of a rapidly evolving global environment.

IIM Shillong Hosts the 35th National Academy of Psychology Convention



Indian Institute of Management Shillong proudly hosted the 35th National Academy of Psychology Convention from 29th April 2026, bringing together scholars, researchers, practitioners, and delegates from across the country under the theme “Reframing Psychology Beyond Neoliberal Individualism.” The three-day convention served as a vibrant platform for interdisciplinary dialogue, collaborative learning, and critical reflection on the evolving role of psychology in contemporary society.

The inaugural session commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Basav Roychoudhury, Dean (Research), who reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to fostering academic excellence and meaningful intellectual exchange. Prof. Rohit



Dwivedi, Convenor of the convention, presented an overview of the academic programme, outlining the thematic focus and objectives of the convention.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Shri Atul Kulkarni, Member, Board of Governors, IIM Shillong, as the Chief Guest. His presence underscored the significance of interdisciplinary engagement and dialogue in addressing contemporary societal challenges and shaping future communities.

The Presidential Address was delivered by Prof. Kumar Ravi Priya on “Cultural and Structural Competencies in Psychology: Revisiting Some Partially Fulfilled Promises.” The address

reflected on the need to strengthen culturally grounded and socially responsive approaches within psychological research and practice.

A major highlight of the convention was the prestigious D. N. Sinha Memorial Lecture delivered by Prof. Uichol Kim, who spoke on themes of human experience, agency, relatedness, and social transformation from global and cultural perspectives. The 35th NAOP Lecture was delivered by Prof. R. C. Tripathi on “Neoliberalism as a New Colonizer of Minds: Towards Reframing of Psychology,” offering critical insights into the relationship between psychology, society, and emerging socio-economic paradigms.

The convention witnessed engaging academic discussions, paper presentations, and collaborative exchanges that reinforced the importance of advancing psychological research for the larger benefit of society. Scholars and participants explored diverse perspectives on culture, identity, well-being, and social transformation, contributing to a rich and intellectually stimulating environment.

The valedictory session concluded on a note of gratitude, reflection, and collective accomplishment. Prof. Rohit Dwivedi reflected on the journey of the convention, highlighting its

vision, milestones, and the collaborative efforts that contributed to its success.

The occasion also celebrated academic excellence through the presentation of distinguished awards. The D. Sinha Best Dissertation Award was conferred upon Prarthana Saikia, while the NAOP Best Paper Award was presented to Neha Jain for her outstanding scholarly contribution.

A special moment during the valedictory session was the recognition of Prof. R. C. Tripathi as a Distinguished Psychologist of the National Academy of Psychology (India), honouring his exceptional contributions to psychology as a discipline and profession.

The proceedings concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Prof. Ashutosh Bishnu Murti, who expressed appreciation to all speakers, participants, organisers, volunteers, and delegates for contributing to the success of the convention.

The 35th NAOP Convention at IIM Shillong stood as a significant academic gathering that fostered critical dialogue, strengthened scholarly collaboration, and reaffirmed the role of psychology in understanding and addressing the complexities of contemporary society.

IIM Shillong Conducted MDP on “Agile Leadership for India’s Economic Future” for Indian Economic Service Officers

Indian Institute of Management Shillong successfully launched a Management Development Program (MDP) titled “Agile Leadership for India’s Economic Future”, exclusively designed for officers of the Indian Economic Service (IES), Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The programme was conducted from 20th to 30th April 2026.

Tailored for IES officers, the programme aimed to strengthen strategic leadership capabilities, institutional resilience, and collaborative effectiveness required to navigate an increasingly

complex and dynamic policy environment.

Structured around critical themes such as leadership and team building, time and stress management, and emerging economic challenges, the programme adopted an interactive and experiential pedagogy. Participants engaged in expert-led discussions, simulations, and reflective learning sessions, enabling them to complement their domain expertise with enhanced managerial and leadership capabilities.

The programme was designed to equip



officers with the skills necessary to navigate macroeconomic policymaking, fiscal management, and inter-ministerial coordination, aligning leadership practices with the evolving demands of public governance.

MÉTIER

CONGRATULATIONS
on your research article publication!!

Prof. Abhinav Sharma
Operations and Quantitative Techniques, IIM Shillong

ARTICLE TITLE
A comparative study to enhance decision-making for multi-objective 'mean' and 'mean-variance' optimisation of multiple responses considering predictive uncertainties

JOURNAL
Annals of Operations Research (ABDC A | ABS 3)



Congratulations to Prof. Abhinav Kumar Sharma, Prof. Indrajit Mukherjee, Prof. Felix T. S. Chan, and Prof. Raghu Nandan Sengupta on the publication of their research article, “A comparative study to enhance decision-making for multi-objective ‘mean’ and ‘mean–variance’ optimisation of multiple responses considering



This initiative further reflected IIM Shillong’s continued commitment to strengthening agile and future-ready public institutions capable of addressing the challenges and opportunities of India’s evolving economic landscape.

predictive uncertainties,” in Annals of Operations Research (ABDC: A, ABS: 3).

The study explores the effectiveness of population-based multi-objective optimisation algorithms in addressing complex multiple response optimisation problems while incorporating predictive uncertainties to improve decision-making. It also proposes a modified NSGA-III algorithm integrated with Tabu Search to enhance solution quality and convergence performance.

The findings highlight the strong and consistent performance of advanced optimisation approaches, including Speed-constrained Multi-objective Particle Swarm Optimisation, Multi-objective Individualised Instruction Teaching–Learning-Based Optimisation, and the modified NSGA-III algorithm across diverse problem settings.

Read the full article here: [Annals of Operations Research Article](#)

Congratulations to Prof. Basav Roychoudhury, Prof. Ashutosh Murti, and Naman Dubey on the publication of their research article, "Identifying and prioritizing determinants of employer branding," in Acta Psychologica (ABDC–A, Scopus, SSCI).

The study analyses over 408,000 employee reviews from Glassdoor to identify the key factors influencing employer branding and employee perception. It highlights nine major determinants, including a newly identified factor termed "Organizational Rightsizing," while also introducing a "Negativity Index" to enable standardized comparison of sentiment analysis across studies and domains.

The research offers valuable insights for HR professionals seeking to strengthen employer branding, improve employee retention, and attract talent through data-driven understanding of employee sentiment.

Congratulations
on your research article publication!!

Prof. Basav Roychoudhury
Information Systems & Analytics,
IIM Shillong

Prof. Ashutosh Murti
Organizational Behaviour and Human Resources
IIM Shillong

ARTICLE TITLE
Identifying and prioritizing determinants of employer branding

JOURNAL
Acta Psychologica (ABDC-A | Scopus | SSCI)

Read the full article here: [Acta Psychologica Article](#)

CONGRATULATORY NOTE

NATIONAL FINALISTS

Cummins Redefine 2025

Team Dynamic Dreamers

Khushi Sharma
Batch of 2024-26

Shraddha Anchan
Batch of 2024-26

Yashika Arora
Batch of 2024-26

CONGRATULATIONS!

Heartiest congratulations to Team Dynamic Dreamers — Khushi Sharma, Shraddha Anchan, and Yashika Arora — for emerging as National Finalists in Cummins Redefine 2025.

Competing among over 6,000 participants nationwide, the team showcased strong strategic thinking, creativity, and analytical skills while addressing complex business challenges. Their achievement reflects an impressive ability to translate theoretical insights into practical business solutions and deliver impactful outcomes in a competitive environment.

We congratulate them on this remarkable accomplishment and wish them continued success ahead.



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