

NUKSA

THE PINE CHRONICLE

NEWS, VIEWS & CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

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Eighty Years of Freedom: IIM Shillong Marks India's Independence Day with Reflection and Resolve

ABOUT NUKSA

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

Advisor

Prof. Arun Mohan Sherry

Editorial Team

Shri. Merlvin Jude Mukhim
Shri. Narayan Chhetry

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भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान शिल्लॉंग
Indian Institute of Management Shillong
Umsawli, Shillong-793018
Website: www.iimshillong.ac.in
Phone: 0364-2308000

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COVER STORY

Eighty Years of Freedom: IIM Shillong Marks India's Independence Day with Reflection and Resolve



There is something quietly powerful about watching a flag rise against the backdrop of Shillong's hills, especially on a morning meant to mark eighty years of a nation's freedom. That is exactly how the IIM Shillong family chose to begin this Independence Day, coming together not just to observe a national holiday, but to genuinely sit with what the occasion means, both for the country and for themselves.

A Morning of Reflection

The celebrations opened with the flag hoisting ceremony, led by Prof. Arun Mohan Sherry, Director of IIM Shillong. It is a ritual most of us have witnessed since childhood, yet there was a certain weight to this one. Eighty years is not a small number. It carries within it the memory of a freedom struggle fought by people who never lived to see independence, the early decades of a young republic finding its feet, and the more recent story of a country steadily working its way toward becoming one of the world's major economies.

Following the ceremony, Prof. Sherry addressed the gathered community, and it was clear from

the tone of his speech that this was meant to be more than a customary address. He spoke candidly about how far India has come since 1947, acknowledging the progress made across sectors while also being honest about the distance still left to cover. What stood out most was his call to the students, faculty, officers and staff present, urging each of them to see themselves not as passive observers of India's growth story, but as active contributors to it.

The Road to Viksit Bharat

Much of his address centred around the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, a goal that will coincide with India's hundredth year of independence. He spoke about responsible leadership, about the kind of innovation that solves real problems rather than chasing trends, and about nation building as something that happens not just through policy or infrastructure, but through the everyday choices made by individuals and institutions alike.

For an institution like IIM Shillong, this message carries particular significance. As a premier management institute, the responsibility of shaping future leaders, decision makers and

changemakers rests heavily on its shoulders. Prof. Sherry's words served as a reminder that the classrooms, case studies and campus conversations happening here are not disconnected from the larger national story, they are, in many ways, quietly writing the next chapter of it.

Culture, Colour and Community

If the morning belonged to reflection, the rest of the day belonged to celebration. Cultural performances filled the campus with colour and energy, as students, officers and staff came together with genuine enthusiasm. There was music, there was dance, and there was that particular kind of joy that comes from a diverse community choosing, even briefly, to celebrate something together.

It felt like a fitting tribute to a country whose greatest strength has always been its diversity. India is a nation of countless languages, cultures, traditions and beliefs, and yet it has managed, despite the odds, to remain united through it all. Watching the IIM Shillong community, drawn from

different states, backgrounds and walks of life, come together in celebration was, in its own small way, a reflection of that larger national truth.

Looking Back, Looking Forward

As the day drew to a close, there was a shared sense among those present that this was not just about marking a date on the calendar. It was about pausing to genuinely appreciate everything India has achieved over eight decades, while also being honest about the work that still lies ahead.

The IIM Shillong community leaves this Independence Day with a renewed sense of purpose, one that carries forward into classrooms, projects and conversations long after the flag has been lowered and the performances have ended. There is a quiet but firm commitment here, to keep contributing, keep building, and keep working toward a India that is not only developed, but genuinely inclusive and strong for every citizen it holds.

Happy 80th Independence Day.

PHOTO GALLERY

GLIMPSES OF AUGUST EVENTS



TIMELINE

Director IIM Shillong Meets Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court



On 10th August, Prof. Arun Mohan Sherry, Director of IIM Shillong, met with Hon'ble Justice Revati Mohite Dere, Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya.

The conversation between the two leaders touched on themes that matter deeply to both institutions they represent, leadership, what it takes to build institutional excellence, and the part education plays in shaping a society that is both progressive and inclusive. It was a meeting of minds from two very different fields, yet grounded in a shared belief that strong institutions and thoughtful leadership go hand in hand in building a better future.

Director IIM Shillong Calls on Governor of Meghalaya



On 11th August, Prof. Arun Mohan Sherry, Director of IIM Shillong, met with Shri C. H. Vijayashankar, Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya.

The meeting brought together two perspectives on what it takes to build a stronger tomorrow, visionary leadership and the kind of collaborative growth that comes from institutions working together rather than in isolation. Much of the conversation centred on the role premier institutions

like IIM Shillong have to play, not just in academics, but in shaping a future that is equitable and resilient, through learning, through innovation, and through genuine engagement with the community around them.

Director IIM Shillong Meets Chief Secretary of Meghalaya

Prof. Arun Mohan Sherry, Director of IIM Shillong, recently met with Dr. Shakil P. Ahammed, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya.

The conversation touched on themes that continue to shape how institutions and government work together, visionary leadership, meaningful collaboration, and the kind of growth that leaves no one behind. Both reaffirmed the role that premier institutions like IIM Shillong have to play in building a society that is equitable, resilient and ready for what lies ahead, through education, innovation and genuine engagement with the communities they serve.



Director IIM Shillong Meets Padma Shri Prof. David Reid Syiemlieh



Prof. Arun Mohan Sherry, Director of IIM Shillong, recently met Padma Shri Prof. David Reid Syiemlieh, one of the region's most respected academics and thought leaders.

The conversation moved through education, academia and the changing role institutions play in shaping society, the kind of exchange

that only happens when two people with decades of experience between them decide to sit down and really talk. It was a reminder of how valuable these interactions can be, offering a chance to pause, share perspectives, and take a moment to recognise the rich academic and cultural contributions this region has given over the years.

Director IIM Shillong Meets Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia



Prof. Arun Mohan Sherry, Director of IIM Shillong, recently met Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia, AVSM, VM, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command, Indian Air Force.

The conversation brought together two very different worlds, academia and the armed forces, yet both grounded in the same core belief, that leadership and nation building go hand in hand. They spoke about strategic thinking, what institutional excellence really demands, and how each of their fields, in their own way, is committed to shaping people who can lead.

For IIM Shillong, meetings like these hold real value. They open the door to dialogue, to learning from each other, and to building relationships between institutions that last well beyond a single conversation.

Director IIM Shillong Meets Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera

Prof. Arun Mohan Sherry, Director of IIM Shillong, recently met Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera, AVSM, SM, Director General, Assam Rifles.

The two spoke at length about leadership, strategic vision, and what nation building really requires, a conversation that reflected how closely academia and the armed forces align when it comes to shaping leaders ready for whatever the future holds.

For IIM Shillong, such engagements matter. They create space for genuine learning between institutions and help build relationships rooted in service, excellence, and a shared sense of purpose.



CMBC Training Program Kicks Off with 60 Young Entrepreneurs from Across Meghalaya



The Chief Minister's Business Catalyst (CMBC) Training Program was inaugurated today at the IIM Shillong Auditorium, bringing together nearly 60 aspiring student entrepreneurs from across the state for four days of hands on entrepreneurship learning. The program is organised by the North East Centre for Community Impact and Engagement (NE CCIE) at IIM Shillong, in collaboration with the Government of Meghalaya.

The inaugural session saw Ms. Saloni Verma, IAS, Executive Director of the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA), Prof. Arun Mohan Sherry, Director of IIM Shillong, and Dr. Teidorlang Lyngdoh, Coordinator of the CMBC Initiative, come together to set the tone for the residential program.

Dr. Lyngdoh opened proceedings by walking participants through the journey of the CMBC Initiative so far. From entrepreneurship workshops held across colleges in Meghalaya to sessions on business communication and presentation, and the creation of entrepreneurship learning compendiums, the initiative has been steadily working to build a stronger entrepreneurial ecosystem in the state.

Prof. Sherry's address struck a personal chord with



the young entrepreneurs in the room. He spoke about what actually sets successful entrepreneurs apart, chiefly, the ability to observe closely and spot opportunity where others see only problems. He also urged participants to think seriously about turning what they are passionate about into their profession, and about the difference between a project and a product. That shift, he noted, is often what allows an idea to grow into an enterprise, one that can eventually create jobs for people across Meghalaya and give back to the community.

Ms. Verma brought the government's perspective to the conversation. She noted that while policies, schemes and institutional support can create the right conditions, it is ultimately entrepreneurs and their passion that push innovation and economic growth forward. She encouraged the participants to take charge of their ideas and turn them into ventures with real impact, while making full use of the support that MBMA has to offer.

Over the next four days, participants will attend faculty lectures and expert sessions, receive one on one mentoring, and compete in a Business Idea Competition, all aimed at giving Meghalaya's next generation of entrepreneurs the tools and confidence to build something of their own.

IIM Shillong Reaffirms Commitment to a Drug-Free India

"Drugs may give you a high for a short time, but they make your entire career and personal life low." These words from Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi capture a message that IIM Shillong believes in deeply.

As an institution, we stand firmly behind the Prime Minister's vision of a *Nasha Mukta Bharat*. Our youth carry the promise of this nation's future, and that future is best built on health, purpose and potential, not on the false comfort of addiction.

We believe every young person deserves the chance to discover what they are truly capable of, free from the grip of substance abuse. It is a responsibility we all share, as an institution, as a community, and as citizens, to create spaces where young people feel supported enough to choose the harder, more meaningful path.

Let us come together to build a stronger, healthier and drug-free India, one where our youth are empowered to thrive.

Casonix Workshop Equips Students to Ace Case Competitions

Casonix teamed up with AceMBA to run a 6 hour workshop aimed at helping participants sharpen their approach to case competitions.

The session covered a fair bit of ground, the do's and don'ts that often make or break a case round, structured frameworks for tackling cases,

how to build sound financial projections, and a few smart tools that can genuinely improve both the quality and speed of a solution. Rather than staying theoretical, the workshop kept things practical throughout, giving participants guidance they could take straight into their next case competition.

IIM Shillong Launches MDP on Pedagogical Leadership for School Education

IIM Shillong has begun a new Management Development Program on "Pedagogical Leadership for School Education," designed for Teacher Trainers and Administrators from SCERT and DIET, Delhi. The program runs from 10 to 14 August 2026.

Over these five days, educational leaders from Delhi will come together to explore what good pedagogy really looks like in practice, how to make strategic decisions that matter, and how leadership itself can become a tool for real transformation in schools. The goal is simple

but important, to help these administrators and trainers build learning environments that are not just functional but genuinely future ready.

What makes this program work is the exchange it creates. Participants will share their own experiences from the field, learn from one another, and engage in conversations that push their thinking forward. It is this kind of collaborative learning that tends to stick, and that translates into real change once people return to their institutions.



Education does not stand still, and neither can the people leading it. As schools face new challenges and new possibilities, it is leaders like these, ones



willing to keep learning and adapting, who will shape institutions capable of inspiring students and preparing them for whatever comes next.

IIM Shillong Conducted MDP for SEBI Officers on Digital Financial Leadership



IIM Shillong conducted a Management Development Program titled "Building Future Ready Capability at SEBI for a Digital Financial Landscape," for officers of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Government of India, from 19th to 21st August 2026.

The financial sector has been changing faster than most regulatory frameworks were originally built to handle, and the program was designed around that exact challenge. Over three days, participants engaged with expert insights, case based learning and peer discussions that dug into some of the



most pressing themes in finance today, digital transformation, evolving regulation, institutional governance, innovation, and what strategic leadership actually looks like in this space.

What made the program valuable was not just the content, but the space it created for reflection. As digital finance continues to reshape how markets function, SEBI officers who attended the program had the opportunity to step back, think through these shifts with fresh perspective, and consider what responsible regulation looks like in a landscape that keeps moving.

Onam Celebrations Bring Colour to IIM Shillong Campus



The IIM Shillong community came together this Onam, embracing a bit of Kerala's rich cultural heritage right here on campus, with plenty of joy, warmth and the kind of camaraderie that makes these celebrations special.

There was a beautifully crafted Pookalam at the centre of it all, along with the traditional



festivities that Onam is known for. Watching everyone come together for the celebration was a lovely reminder of just how diverse and close knit this campus really is.

May this Onam bring happiness, prosperity and new beginnings to everyone. Happy Onam!

IPM 2026-31 Batch Arrives, Marking a New Chapter for IIM Shillong

With great warmth and pride, IIM Shillong welcomes the second batch of the Integrated Program in Management, the IPM 2026-31 cohort, into its family.

As this journey begins, there is a lot to look forward to, years of learning, growth, friendships that last well beyond the classroom, and experiences that will quietly shape these young minds into thoughtful, responsible leaders. Here, amidst the hills and clouds of Shillong, that journey becomes one of genuine discovery, purpose and impact.

To the newest members of our community, welcome home.

Begin. Belong. Become.



Freshers' Night and Section Wars Set the Tone for PGP26

August was all about celebrations and new beginnings, kicking off with Freshers Night on 9th August, welcoming the PGP26 batch with a Bollywood theme filled with music, dance, and performances from the seniors. The night moved through a Mr and Miss Freshers competition, complete with a ramp walk and talent round, before wrapping up with a DJ night that had both batches on the floor.

The month continued with Section Wars from 27th August, bringing all six PGP26 sections together for dance, singing, sports and more. Beyond the competition, it gave juniors a real chance to bond, ending in a well-earned win for one section and a

lot of memories for everyone else.

Section Wars also kicked off the sporting calendar for PGP26 at IIM Shillong, bringing all sections together in some good old healthy competition. Students went head-to-head across Badminton, Basketball, Football, Chess, Carrom and Table Tennis, putting their talent, teamwork and grit on full display.

Beyond the wins and losses, it was really about the friendships forming on the sidelines and the memories being made along the way, a fitting start to what promises to be an exciting sporting journey ahead.

usHR's Speed Networking Brings Seniors and Juniors Together

On 17th August, usHR organised Speed Networking, a cross batch initiative designed to get seniors and juniors talking, really talking, beyond the usual hallway hellos. Over 90 students turned up, around 40 seniors and 50 juniors, moving through short structured conversations meant to get people sharing experiences, perspectives and the kind of insights that only

come from having been there before.

What started as an informal exercise in networking ended up doing exactly what it set out to, bridging the gap between batches and building a genuine sense of community on campus. The evening wound down with refreshments, giving everyone a chance to keep the conversations going well after the formal rounds ended.

Zeitgeist's August Lineup: Debates, Art, Quizzes and a Dose of Gita Wisdom

August kept Zeitgeist busy with a mix of events that got students thinking, creating and engaging well beyond the classroom.

The month opened with Desh Ke Naam, an Independence Day themed event built around a debate on some genuinely tricky questions,

like where the moral responsibility for public order really lies, with the state or the citizen, and what role nationalism should play in building a progressive society. Alongside the debate, a painting competition gave participants a different outlet altogether, letting them express what patriotism and nationhood mean to them through

art.

As part of Section Wars, Zeitgeist also put together a quiz for the PGP26 batch, pulling questions from history, literature, geography, business and technology, enough variety to keep every kind of student on their toes.

There was also a session with Shri Siddhartha Dave, who spoke on the Bhagavad Gita and its

surprising relevance to management, touching on leadership, ethics and the kind of decision making that shows up in everyday professional life.

To round off the month, some Zeitgeist members stepped outside campus altogether, volunteering to moderate and judge the debate competition at St. Edmund's School's Edmundian Fest, a nice reminder that the club's reach goes well beyond IIM Shillong.

MÉTIER

Congratulations to Prof. Devansh Pandey on the publication of his research article, "Targeted maximum likelihood estimation for psychological research: From causal identification to statistical inference," in Acta Psychologica (ABDC A, Scopus, SSCI).

The paper offers a practical guide to Targeted Maximum Likelihood Estimation, positioning it as one part of a larger causal inference workflow rather than a standalone answer to causality. It walks researchers through the groundwork that needs to come first, a clear research question, a defined population, and a sound identification argument, before any estimator is chosen, with an eye toward applications in consumer psychology research spanning advertising, pricing and personalised recommendations.

A well deserved recognition for a piece of work that adds real clarity to how psychological researchers approach causal questions.

Read the full article here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0001691826014113>





भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान शिलॉंग
 Indian Institute of Management Shillong
 Umsawli, Shillong-793018
 Website: www.iimshillong.ac.in
 Phone: 0364-2308000

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