IIM Shillong's Newsletter
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भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान शिलॉंग
Indian Institute of Management Shillong

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NEWS, VIEWS & CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

IPM 2026-31 Batch Begins Its Journey at IIM Shillon
page 06

IIM Shillong Welcomes Delegation from the Royal Thai Embassy
page 07

IIM Shillong Hosts Four-Day YES+ Wellbeing Programme in Association with the Art of Living
page 09



TEDxIIM Shillong 2026
Beyond Boundaries: Where Ideas Find New Horizons

ABOUT NUKSA

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

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CONTENT

03 Cover Story
TEDxIIM Shillong 2026
Beyond Boundaries: Where Ideas Find New Horizons

05 Photo Gallery

Timeline

06 IPM 2026-31 Batch Begins Its Journey at IIM Shillong

07 IIM Shillong Welcomes Delegation from the Royal Thai Embassy

07 IIM Shillong Students Tune In to India Energy Week 2027 Curtain Raiser

08 Ashis Basu on What It Takes to Build a Journey That Matters

09 Prabhat Kumar Shows PODIUM Students How to Build Products That Matter

09 IIM Shillong Hosts Four-Day YES+ Wellbeing Programme in Association with the Art of Living

10 Starbucks India Opens the IIM Shillong Industry Dialogue Series

11 IIM Shillong Runs Strong at the 5th Sohra International Half Marathon

11 Congratulatory Note

IIM SHILLONG

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COVER STORY

TEDxIIM Shillong 2026

Beyond Boundaries: Where Ideas Find New Horizons



What happens when people from different walks of life come together to share their experiences, question established ideas and imagine new possibilities? Sometimes, all it takes is a single idea to change the way we see the world. At other times, it is a story of courage, an unexpected perspective or a conversation that stays with us long after the moment has passed.

This spirit of discovery came alive at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong during TEDxIIM Shillong 2026, held under the theme "Beyond Boundaries." The event brought together distinguished leaders, innovators and changemakers whose journeys reflected the power of looking beyond the familiar and the courage to challenge what is considered possible.

In his opening address, Dr. Arun Mohan Sherry, Director, IIM Shillong, reflected on the importance of bringing people, ideas and opportunities together. Innovation, he emphasised, often emerges at the point where different perspectives meet, encouraging individuals to move beyond limitations and explore new frontiers. It is this willingness to look beyond established boundaries that allows ideas to grow, possibilities to expand and meaningful change to take shape.

The speaker line-up reflected the many dimensions of this theme. Dr. Niru Kumar, Padma Shri Awardee and Founder and CEO of Ask Insights, brought her experience to the conversation, while Dr. Sanjay Arora, Founder and CEO of Shells Advertising Inc., offered perspectives from the world of branding and communication. Ira Singhal, Deputy Secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India, represented the importance of public service and educational leadership.

Colonel Abraham Cherian, Founder and CEO of 360° Wealth Advice, brought insights shaped by leadership and professional experience. Major

Vandana Sharma, a DEI and HR leader and Founder of VaMiKa Heritage, added perspectives on inclusion, people and heritage. Indranil Das Blah, Founder of AMP Sports & Entertainment and former CEO of Mumbai City FC, brought the worlds of entrepreneurship, sports and entertainment into the conversation.

Their stories touched upon leadership, inclusion, branding, defence, entrepreneurship and sports. Each perspective offered a different way of understanding what it means to move beyond boundaries. Together, they reminded the audience that progress rarely comes from accepting limitations at face value. It comes from asking difficult questions, remaining open to new ideas and finding the confidence to take a different path.

For the students of IIM Shillong, the event offered more than an opportunity to listen to accomplished individuals. It was an invitation to reflect on their own journeys, assumptions and ambitions. In a world where professional success is often measured through outcomes and achievements, the speakers brought attention to the experiences, choices and values that shape those outcomes. Their journeys underscored the importance of resilience, adaptability and the willingness to keep learning.

The significance of a platform such as TEDx lies not only in the ideas shared on stage, but also in the conversations that continue afterwards. A thought-provoking experience can alter a perspective, open a door to a new possibility or inspire someone to approach a familiar challenge differently. In this sense, the impact of TEDxIIM Shillong 2026 extends beyond the event itself, finding its place in the reflections and aspirations of those who were part of it.

The theme "Beyond Boundaries" also resonates with the spirit of IIM Shillong, an institution situated in the culturally rich and diverse landscape of the North East. The coming together of varied experiences and viewpoints reflects the value of dialogue in a world that is increasingly interconnected. It reinforces the idea that learning is not confined to classrooms or textbooks. It grows through encounters with people, through the exchange of experiences and through the willingness to consider perspectives different from our own.

TEDxIIM Shillong 2026 was made memorable by the collective effort of its speakers, participants, faculty members, officers, staff and student volunteers. Their contributions helped create a space where ideas could be shared freely and where curiosity, reflection and possibility took centre stage.

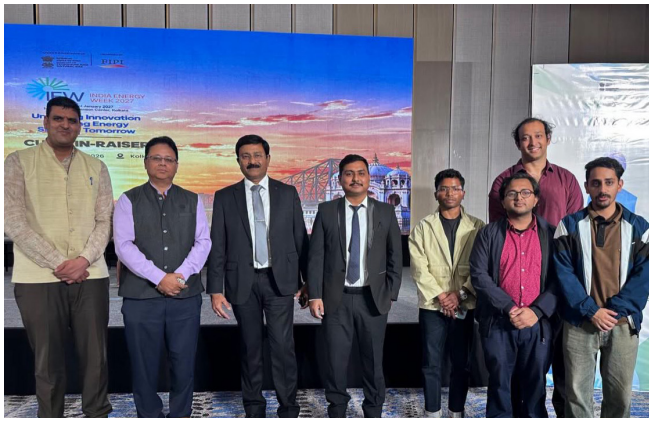
As the event drew to a close, its central message remained relevant beyond the auditorium. Boundaries can define where we begin, but they need not determine where we go. When we are willing to listen, question, learn and imagine differently, we make room for possibilities that once seemed out of reach.

And perhaps that is what it truly means to go beyond boundaries: not simply to cross into unfamiliar territory, but to return with a broader understanding of ourselves, of others and of what we can achieve together.

Because every meaningful change begins with an idea, and every idea deserves the chance to travel beyond boundaries.

PHOTO GALLERY

GLIMPSES OF SEPTEMBER EVENTS













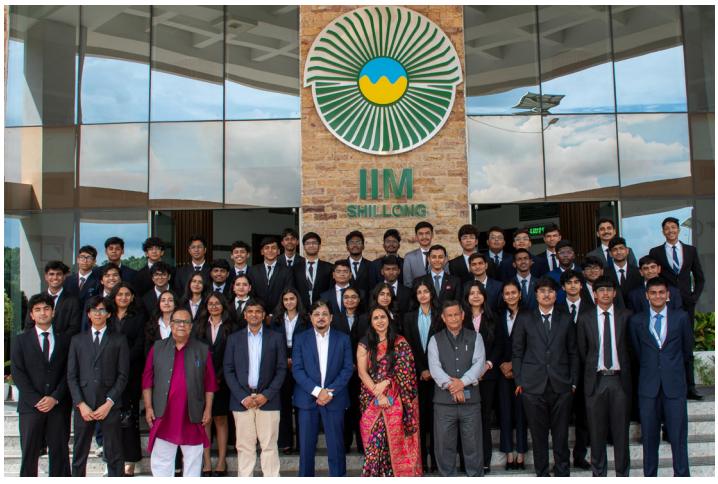




TIMELINE

IPM 2026-31 Batch Begins Its Journey at IIM Shillong





The Commencement Ceremony for the second batch of the Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) 2026-31 marked the start of a new chapter of learning, leadership and growth at IIM Shillong.

Prof. Priya Alat, Member of the Admissions Committee, opened the proceedings with an overview of the incoming cohort. She spoke about the geographical spread of the batch and the range of perspectives that students from across the country were bringing into the classroom.

Prof. Sheetal, Chairperson of the IPM, introduced the programme and gave the new students a warm welcome. She laid out the vision behind the course and the opportunities waiting for them over the coming years. Prof. Rohit Dwivedi then delivered the Welcome Address, talking about the Institute's commitment to experiential learning, industry engagement and all round development.

Chief Guest Mr. Ashis Basu, Executive Director of GMR Power & Urban Infra Limited, spoke about the human qualities that make a leader last. Trust, courage, empathy, collaboration, curiosity, self belief and resilience all featured in his address, and he pointed to humility as the foundation for both success and lifelong learning.

Guest of Honour Mr. Manjunath M., Senior Manager, Product Management Tech at Amazon, spoke about finding one's footing in a world where technology keeps shifting. He encouraged students to stay adaptable and to stand out by meeting challenges with purpose and a growth mindset.

Prof. Sanjoy Mukherjee shared a few words of wisdom with the students, urging them to build self belief, humility, resilience, empathy and compassion as they stepped into this important phase of life. Prof. Vishaka Bansal then delivered the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to the guests, faculty, staff, students and everyone who helped the ceremony come together.

The ceremony ended with a pledge in which the students reaffirmed their commitment to ethics, integrity, collaboration and continuous growth, setting the tone for the years ahead.

Welcome to IIM Shillong, IPM 2026-31. May your journey be shaped by curiosity, excellence, purpose and impact.

IIM Shillong Welcomes Delegation from the Royal Thai Embassy





IIM Shillong had the privilege of hosting a distinguished delegation from the Royal Thai Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand on campus today.

The visit gave both sides a chance to sit down and talk about the things that matter to institutions on either end of such a partnership. The conversation covered education, the value of international collaboration, and the different ways in which India and Thailand could work together in the years ahead. It was the kind of exchange that goes beyond courtesy, with each side keen to understand how the other thinks about learning and how that thinking might come together in a shared effort.

For IIM Shillong, a visit like this carries real meaning. Nestled in the hills of Meghalaya, the Institute has always believed that good ideas travel best when people meet face to face, and that academic partnerships grow from trust built over conversation. Hosting representatives from Thailand was a reminder of how far that belief can take an institution.

The two countries share long standing cultural and historical ties, and the interaction was warmed by an appreciation of that common ground. The Institute came away looking forward to strengthening these academic and cultural links, and to exploring what the road ahead might hold for students and faculty on both sides.

IIM Shillong thanked the delegation for taking the time to visit and for the openness with which they engaged.

IIM Shillong Students Tune In to India Energy Week 2027 Curtain Raiser

Students of IIM Shillong, along with members of the Institute's Corporate Affairs Team, took part in the live relay of the India Energy Week (IEW) 2027 Curtain Raiser on 28 September 2026. The event was hosted by Oil India Limited at Courtyard by Marriott, Shillong.

Participants watched a live webcast of the main Curtain Raiser from Kolkata, which was graced





by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Shri Suvendu Adhikari, Chief Minister of West Bengal.

Shri Abhijit Majumder, Director (Finance) at Oil India Limited, shared his views on India's energy future and the sector's changing journey. A panel of promising Northeast startups followed, where entrepreneurs presented their solutions and spoke about building sustainable ventures. Dr. Pramod Kumar, Co-founder of Maa Kamakhya Phytochemicals, spoke about how innovation and entrepreneurship can help India move towards self reliance.

For students, the morning offered a close look at the country's energy landscape, new technologies and the startup ecosystem shaping the sector. Engagements like this help bridge the gap between classroom learning and real world challenges, bringing students face to face with industry leaders, policymakers and entrepreneurs.

Ashis Basu on What It Takes to Build a Journey That Matters





PODIUM Season 17 hosted a conversation on "Inspiring Journeys: Lessons from Business Leaders" with Mr. Ashis Basu, Executive Director of GMR Power & Urban Infra Limited.

Through stories drawn from his own career, Mr. Basu spoke about the value of lifelong learning, curiosity, self belief and resilience. He also made the point that setbacks and failures often turn out to be the best teachers one can have.

The discussion went on to cover the importance of a strong moral compass, humility, teamwork and an entrepreneurial mindset. Mr. Basu reminded the audience that real success goes beyond personal achievement and lies in the lasting impact one leaves on society.

The session left students with more than lessons in leadership. It offered a perspective on how to learn, lead, persevere and give back.

Prabhat Kumar Shows PODIUM Students How to Build Products That Matter





IIM Shillong hosted Mr. Prabhat Kumar, Senior Director of Product Management at Payoneer, as part of PODIUM Season 17. His session was titled "How Future Business Leaders Build Products, Make Better Decisions and Create Customer Value."

Mr. Kumar began with the fundamentals of Product Management and walked participants through frameworks such as RICE prioritisation. He showed how structured thinking helps product teams decide what deserves their time and what does not.

The session stood out for how interactive it was. Mr. Kumar kept the room engaged with questions throughout and pushed participants to look past the obvious answers. He encouraged them to approach every problem from the point of view of the product and the customer.

Students left with plenty to think about, from frameworks and practical insights to a fresh way of looking at how products create real value.

IIM Shillong Hosts Four-Day YES+ Wellbeing Programme in Association with the Art of Living

IIM Shillong hosted a four-day holistic living and wellbeing programme in association with the Art of Living, featuring the YES+ course facilitated by Art of Living instructors. The programme was organised by the Office of Holistic Living & Wellbeing, IIM Shillong.

The programme offered a blend of experiential learning, interactive activities, games and reflective sessions focused on managing stress, navigating uncertainty and anxiety, and performing effectively in challenging situations. Participants explored practical ways to understand and manage the mind, cultivate focus and clarity,

and maintain emotional balance.

A key component of the programme was Sudarshan Kriya, a breathing practice aimed at calming the mind and enhancing focus. The four-day experience also featured an engaging bhajan jamming session that brought together students from across the IIM Shillong community.

The initiative provided participants with practical tools and perspectives to nurture holistic wellbeing, mindfulness and personal effectiveness.

Starbucks India Opens the IIM Shillong Industry Dialogue Series







IIM Shillong kicked off its Industry Dialogue Series with a lively session hosted by Starbucks India, giving students a closer look at branding, consumer experience and market expansion.

The afternoon was a mix of coffee tasting, brand storytelling, a corporate interaction and a Starbucks quiz, which made for a hands-on way of learning how a global brand really works.

The Institute thanked Mr Shireesh Khare, Head of Projects, and Mr Vibhor Mishra, Regional Director of Operations (South & East) at Tata Starbucks, for sharing their industry perspectives with the students.

IIM Shillong Runs Strong at the 5th Sohra International Half Marathon

IIM Shillong was well represented at the 5th Sohra International Half Marathon, held on 4th September 2026. Students turned out in good numbers and ran with real enthusiasm.



They were joined by two members of the Institute's staff, Senior IT Officers Shri Banteilang Syiemiong and Shri Zicco D Shira, who also took part in the run. Their participation was a good reminder that fitness belongs to everyone on campus, whatever their role.

By lacing up for the race, the IIM Shillong community also lent its support to the nationwide Fit India Movement and its call for a healthier, more active India.

CONGRATULATORY NOTE

Team ERA Reaches the National Finals of Hero Campus Challenge Season 10

Heartiest congratulations to Team ERA, comprising Amiya Mrinal, Eera Sachin Pendharkar and Raghunandan S, who made it to the National Finals of Hero Campus Challenge Season 10. The competition drew more than 400,000 registrations from over 13,000 campuses across the country, and asked participants to tackle real strategic and mobility opportunities for Hero MotoCorp. Through several demanding rounds of evaluation, the team showed sharp analytical thinking, strategic foresight and a practical approach to problem solving that took them into the top ranks. IIM Shillong applauds their journey and wishes them continued success in everything ahead.





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