

# NUKSA THE PINE CHRONICLE

NEWS, VIEWS & CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

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## ABOUT NUKSA

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

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# COVER STORY

## EmergE 2024: IIM Shillong's Showcase of Innovation and Resilience in Entrepreneurship



The fourteenth edition of EmergE at IIM Shillong was a vibrant showcase of entrepreneurial spirit, featuring insightful speaker sessions and dynamic discussions that left a lasting impact on aspiring entrepreneurs. Mrs. Jaya Goyal delivered a captivating keynote, sharing her entrepreneurial journey, from overcoming early challenges to founding and leading successful ventures. She emphasized the power of mentorship, resilience and the importance of creating social impact through business, encouraging more women to take leadership roles in entrepreneurship. Her

experiences, including her role in the Water ATM project, highlighted how entrepreneurship can drive sustainability and societal benefit.

Joel Modestus from Flipkart shared valuable insights on how businesses like Flipkart, Copart and Costco challenged industry norms to become leaders by embracing innovation and disruptive thinking. His talk underscored the importance of questioning assumptions and creating customer-centric solutions to drive growth.

The panel discussion, “From Classroom to Boardroom,” featured industry leaders Drishti Singhal, Ujjawal Kumar, Saurabh Jolly and Meraj Ali Choudhari. They discussed navigating market trends, the importance of networking and fundraising strategies. The panelists shared personal experiences on adapting theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, focusing on agility, resilience and staying ahead of market trends through continuous innovation.

Param Patel, Managing Partner at Volt VC, closed the event with crucial advice on startup fundraising strategies. He highlighted the importance of building strong relationships with investors, maintaining clarity of vision and using key performance indicators to guide business growth. Patel’s session underscored the importance of strategic fundraising and investor alignment for long-term success.

# PHOTO GALLERY

## GLIMPSES OF SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER EVENTS



# TIMELINE

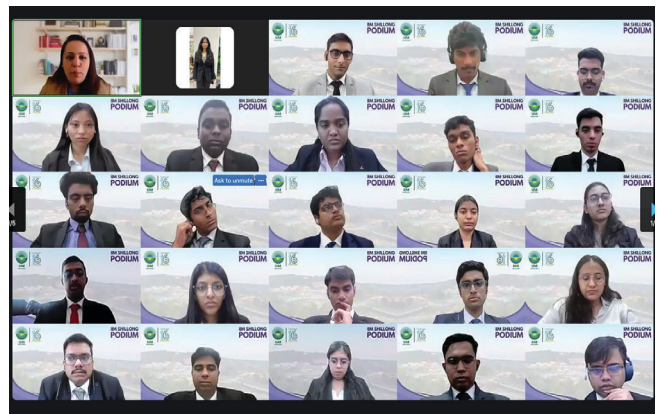
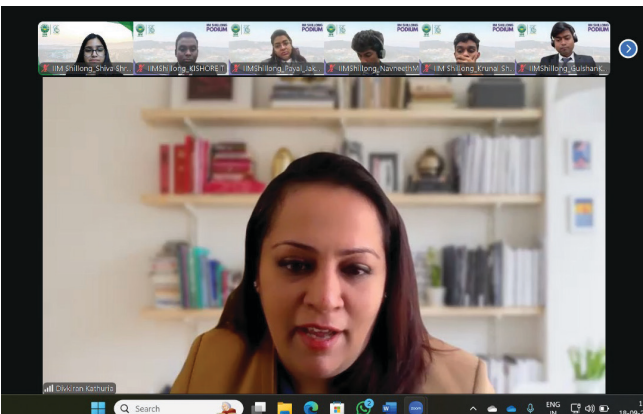
## Inspiring Growth: Kamal Hingorani's Insights on Curiosity and Resilience for Success

Mr. Kamal Hingorani, MD and Chief Credit Officer at Standard Chartered, delivered an inspiring speech that reflected on his post-MBA journey. He emphasised the importance of cultivating curiosity, fostering self-belief and embracing accountability as essential strategies for navigating life's challenges. His insights resonated deeply with the audience, encouraging them to adopt a proactive and optimistic mindset.

Through personal anecdotes and practical advice, Mr. Hingorani provided valuable guidance for attendees aspiring to achieve personal and professional success. His engaging delivery captivated the audience and sparked meaningful discussions on the significance of resilience and growth. Overall, his session left a lasting impact, motivating participants to pursue their goals with renewed vigour and confidence.



## Empowering Transitions: Insights from Divkiran Kathuria on Navigating the Shift from Campus to Corporate



On the 18th of September, 2024, Ms. Divkiran Kathuria, Global Director of Talent at Seagate

Technology, delivered an inspiring session titled "Campus to Corporate – Navigating the Change"

during an online Podium event. Drawing from her extensive experience in Human Capital Management and leadership roles across top organisations, she shared invaluable insights on transitioning from student life to the corporate world. Ms. Kathuria offered practical advice on overcoming challenges, avoiding common mistakes and adapting to the

dynamic demands of the corporate environment. Her emphasis on building resilience, embracing change and committing to continuous learning left a lasting impact on the audience. Participants felt empowered to navigate their career paths successfully in today's evolving business landscape, thanks to her expert guidance.

## Enhancing Project Management Skills for FCI Officers at IIM Shillong



IIM Shillong hosted a Management Development Program (MDP) on "Project Management" specifically designed for officers of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), one of Asia's largest public distribution and supply chain management companies. This program aimed to enhance the project management skills of the officers, equipping them with the tools and techniques necessary to



optimise their operations. By focusing on best practices in project management, participants will learn to ensure efficient food distribution across India. The MDP provides a platform for interactive learning and knowledge sharing, ultimately aiming to strengthen FCI's capacity to meet the food security needs of the nation effectively.

## Legacy Meet 2024: Celebrating Connections and Futures at IIM Shillong





This September marked a special chapter in the history of IIM Shillong as the institute hosted the Legacy Meet 2024, bringing together alumni from the first five batches in three major cities, namely Bangalore, Mumbai and Delhi. With approximately 160 alumni in attendance across these locations, the events were a celebration of shared memories, professional achievements and the ongoing relationship between the institute and its graduates.

The Legacy Meet was a true reunion of minds and hearts. Alumni who have carved out successful careers in industries ranging from finance and consulting to technology and entrepreneurship reconnected not just with their batchmates but also with the professors who helped shape their formative years. It was a heartwarming sight as faculty members fraternised with their former students, many of whom have since become prominent leaders, innovators and changemakers.

A key highlight of the meet was the sense of nostalgia that filled the air, particularly during the special "Memory Lane" segment. This presentation featured a collection of photos from the alumni's time at IIM Shillong, offering a visual journey through classroom moments, cultural events and life on campus. Laughter and fond memories filled the room as old stories were shared, taking everyone back to the days when they were just beginning to navigate the world of business and management.

Beyond reminiscing, the meet was an important opportunity for meaningful discussions about the future. Alumni and faculty engaged in conversations on how the graduates could

continue to contribute to the success of IIM Shillong. Ideas ranged from setting up mentorship programs for current students to offering guest lectures and creating internship or job opportunities within their organizations. The discussions emphasized the symbiotic relationship between alumni and the institute, while alumni can provide valuable insights and opportunities to current students, the institute can continue supporting its graduates through lifelong learning initiatives, career services and networking opportunities.

In each city, the meet fostered vibrant discussions on how IIM Shillong can remain a key pillar in the professional journeys of its alumni. The institute's leadership team shared insights on upcoming plans to strengthen alumni engagement, including enhanced access to executive education programs, alumni-exclusive events and an expanding digital platform for continued learning and connection. These initiatives are designed to ensure that IIM Shillong remains a source of intellectual growth and support long after graduation.

After the formal discussions, attendees were treated to a gala dinner, where old friendships were rekindled and new connections were formed. The dinner was a perfect conclusion to the day's events, offering alumni and professors alike the chance to bond over shared experiences, both old and new. Conversations ranged from light-hearted reminiscing to deep reflections on how much the institute had evolved since its early days, with many noting how their time at IIM Shillong had laid the foundation for their professional success.



The Legacy Meet 2024 was more than just a reunion. It was a celebration of the lasting bond between IIM Shillong and its graduates. The event reaffirmed the institute's commitment

to maintaining a lifelong relationship with its alumni and highlighted the important role they continue to play in shaping the institute's future.

## IIM Shillong Leaders Meet with Minister Pabitra Margherita to Discuss Collaborations



Shri Atul Kulkarni, Member of the Board of Governors (BoG) and Professor D.P. Goyal, Director of IIM Shillong, recently met with Shri Pabitra Margherita, Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, Government of India. During this important meeting, the Honourable Minister was updated on the various collaborations and initiatives IIM Shillong has undertaken with international universities and colleges. The discussions highlighted the institute's commitment to fostering global partnerships and enhancing educational opportunities. Additionally, the leaders explored potential future engagements that could further strengthen these collaborations. This meeting underscored IIM Shillong's proactive approach to international relations and its role in contributing to the global academic landscape.

## IIM Shillong and Land Ports Authority of India Sign MoU for Collaborative Development



IIM Shillong has recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) to foster collaboration in research, training and knowledge exchange. This partnership envisages establishing a Centre of Excellence (CoE)

focused on North East India studies related to trade and movement, alongside the establishment of an LPAI Chair at the Institute to lead research initiatives in this area. The MoU was signed by Professor D.P. Goyal, Director of IIM Shillong and Shri Ajeet Singh,

Director of Operations at LPAI, with prominent attendees including Shri Atul C. Kulkarni, Member of the BoG and Shri Aditya Mishra, Chairman of LPAI. This collaboration aims to enhance skills

through internships and develop customised training programs, significantly contributing to the efficient functioning of India's land ports.

## IIM Shillong Students and Faculty Champion Cleanliness Drive Along Umkaliar River



In support of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' initiative by the Government of India, students and faculty of IIM Shillong recently conducted a cleaning drive along the riverbank of the Umkaliar River. Organised in collaboration with the local NGO Operations Clean-Up and supported by NE-CCIE, the event aimed to promote environmental responsibility and community involvement. Participants had the opportunity to engage with

local residents, fostering a sense of camaraderie while reinforcing their commitment to ethical practices and sustainable growth. This initiative not only contributed to the cleanliness of the riverbank but also highlighted the importance of collective action in preserving the environment, demonstrating IIM Shillong's dedication to social responsibility and community service.

## Thought Leaders Share Insights at IIM Shillong's Intergenerational Dialogue



During a recent Intergenerational Dialogue at IIM Shillong, thought leaders Shri Gopal Srinivasan, Shri K. Venugopal and Shri N. Lakshmi Narayanan converged to share their insights on creating successful organisations. They emphasised that Indian companies, such as ONDC, UPI, Nykaa and

Zomato, have thrived by placing the right people in supportive environments. The leaders highlighted the importance of assessing growth margins when competing with larger corporations and stressed that entrepreneurial orientation, while innate, benefits from prior experience in established

companies. Additionally, they underscored the necessity for leaders to remain anchored in social values. The dialogue provided invaluable

lessons for the bright and conscientious students, inspiring them to integrate these principles into their future endeavours.

## IIM Shillong Hosts Keynote Lecture on Mind and Culture

On September 22nd, IIM Shillong hosted a keynote lecture by renowned scholar Uichol Kim, titled "The Science, Art and Creativity of Understanding the Software of the Mind and Culture." This event honoured the late Professor Durganand Sinha, a pioneer in Indigenous psychology. During the lecture, Kim addressed critical questions about the interplay between culture and individual identity, emphasising their

significance in leading multicultural organisations and navigating global-local dynamics. Following the keynote, a panel discussion on "Leveraging Psychology for a Better Society" explored how psychological principles could be applied to address societal issues and strengthen communities. The session provided valuable insights into the role of psychology in enhancing societal well-being, leaving a lasting impact on attendees.

## IIM Shillong Launches MSME Mentor Development Program



The Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre at IIM Shillong recently launched an MSME Mentor Development Program for officers of the Department of Commerce and Industries (DCI), Meghalaya, as part of the RAMP initiative. Over the course of four days, participants developed essential mentorship skills to support young entrepreneurs and strengthen the MSME ecosystem. Professor

D.P. Goyal emphasised the significance of training in driving change, embracing technology and ensuring that benefits reached all citizens. With a commitment to train 200 individuals, IIM Shillong aimed to foster innovation and growth in the region, reinforcing its dedication to enhancing the MSME landscape and contributing to the overall economic development of Meghalaya.

# IIM Shillong Celebrates Hindi Fortnight with Enthusiasm



IIM Shillong organised a Hindi Fortnight from the 4th to the 20th of September, 2024, aimed at raising awareness about the Hindi language. Throughout this period, various competitions were held, fostering participation and engagement among students. The closing program on the 20th of September, 2024 concluded with great enthusiasm, showcasing the talent and creativity of the participants. During the event, winners and

participants were recognised for their efforts, with awards and certificates presented by the Director of the institution, Professor D.P. Goyal. The initiative not only celebrated the richness of the Hindi language but also strengthened the cultural bonds within the IIM Shillong community, encouraging a greater appreciation for linguistic diversity.

# IIM Shillong Conducts National-Level MDP for Panchayati Raj Officers



The Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis at IIM Shillong recently organised a National-Level Management Development Program (MDP) for senior Panchayati Raj Officers and leaders of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Arunachal Pradesh. This five-day program, held from September 23rd to 27th, 2024, focused on providing advanced training in essential areas such as project management, sustainable development, leadership and

digital transformation. Participants engaged in interactive sessions and workshops designed to enhance their skills and knowledge, enabling them to better serve their communities. The initiative aimed to empower local leaders with the tools necessary to drive effective governance and promote sustainable development within their respective regions, marking a significant step towards capacity building in Panchayati Raj institutions.

## IIM Shillong Hosts Health Camp for Housekeeping Staff



As part of the Swachhata Hi Sewa 2024 campaign, themed “Swabhav Swachata – Sanskaar Swachhata,” IIM Shillong organised the SafaiMitra Suraksha Shivar on the 25th of September, 2024, for all housekeeping staff at the Institute's Wellness Centre. The Director inaugurated the health camp, welcoming the staff and encouraging them to take advantage of the comprehensive health checkups provided.

He emphasised the importance of health and well-being, assuring the housekeeping team that similar health camps would be conducted for all outsourced and mess staff every six months. This initiative aimed to promote good health practices and reinforce the Institute's commitment to the well-being of its support staff, fostering a healthier work environment.

## MDP Participants Experience Sustainable Learning in Mawlynnong



Participants of the Management Development Program (MDP) for Elected Representatives, Officers and Functionaries of Arunachal Pradesh recently embarked on an unforgettable journey to Mawlynnong, known as Asia's cleanest village, along with visits to the breathtaking Sacred Groves forest and the majestic Dawki. This experiential learning trip aimed to foster a deeper understanding of sustainable practices,

community development and environmental stewardship. By blending adventure with hands-on experiences, the participants gained valuable insights that they could apply in their own communities. The journey not only highlighted the importance of sustainability but also inspired the officials to champion similar initiatives back home, reinforcing their commitment to fostering positive change in their regions.

# Empowering Grassroots Leaders for Sustainable Development



IIM Shillong proudly announced the successful completion of the Management Development Program (MDP) in collaboration with the State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD and PR), Government of Arunachal Pradesh. Conducted by the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre, the program spanned five days, during which elected representatives, officers and functionaries enhanced their competencies in leadership, governance, effective decision-making, problem-



solving and financial management. Participants expressed appreciation for the value-added learning, noting significant improvements in their daily operations. The program also included interactions with community leaders from Meghalaya, showcasing best practices in sustainable development and community engagement. IIM Shillong remains committed to nurturing leaders and thanks SIRD and PR for this impactful partnership.

# UTSAV 2024: Diwali Celebrations Ignite Festive Spirit and Community Bonds at IIM Shillong



The Cultural Committee at IIM Shillong organized Utsav 2024, a three-day Diwali celebration that brought the campus community together in the spirit of festivity. Starting on the 29th of October, the event kicked off with a lively games night featuring various game stalls that kept the students entertained, along with an engaging round of Tambola that drew large participation and competitive spirit.



The second day transformed the atmosphere with a Bollywood-themed bonfire and jamming session, where students came dressed as iconic film characters, bringing Bollywood's charm alive on campus. The evening was filled with music, dance and shared warmth around the bonfire.

Diwali Day, which was the 31st of October, 2024, began with creative competitions in Rangoli,

Diya decoration and Mehendi, offering students an opportunity to display cultural artistry and creativity. As night fell, the community, dressed in vibrant ethnic attire, gathered for the auspicious Puja and Aarti of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh. The night's festivities continued with a spirited flash mob, an engaging confession

reading session and a DJ-led dance that engaged everyone. The celebration concluded with the release of sky lanterns, filling the Shillong sky with light and students' wishes for a prosperous year. Utsav 2024 not only celebrated tradition but also strengthened bonds, making Diwali memorable.

## Navratri 2024 with Garba Beats and Festive Spirits: IIM Shillong's Navratri Celebration Unites the Campus



This year, IIM Shillong's Cultural Committee hosted a vibrant three-day Navratri celebration, aiming to bring a touch of home to campus, especially for the Class of 2026, experiencing their first festival away from home. To foster a sense of cultural belonging, the committee organized a two-day Garba workshop where professional instructors introduced students to the basics of Garba. With an enthusiastic response, participants practiced diligently, perfecting choreography for songs that would be performed on the main Garba Night.

Due to the high energy and enthusiasm surrounding garba practice, students took the initiative to organize additional garba workshops at the Nongthymmai campus, held over three

nights prior to the official workshop.

On the ninth day of Navratri, the campus gathered to celebrate Garba Night, commencing with an auspicious puja and aarti in honour of Maa Durga. Following the puja, students gathered on the dance floor, forming vibrant circles to perform Garba. Workshop participants showcased the choreography they had learned, gracefully leading the group with skill and spirit. Regardless of cultural backgrounds, all students joined in, embracing the energy and rhythm of Garba, creating an inclusive atmosphere of joy and unity. The traditional Garba night concluded with a lively DJ night, allowing students to celebrate through music and dance while forging deeper bonds with one another.

## Vicharyudham: A Battle of Wits at IIM Shillong

The Common Room buzzed with excitement as Ekonniti, the Economic and Public Policy Club of IIM Shillong, hosted Vicharyudham, a jam-packed debate competition that challenged participants to engage in a battle of intellect and quick thinking. This unique event brought together students from PGP23 and PGP24, engaging them

in a switch-style debate format that demanded not only knowledge but also adaptability.

As teams stood against each other, the topics spanned a wide range of domains, including geopolitics, economics and world affairs. The switch-style format kept the debaters on their



toes, requiring them to argue both for and against their assigned topics, creating an atmosphere of quick-witted responses and thought-provoking exchanges. As the competition progressed, the intensity of the debates grew and the audience swelled as more viewers from the batch joined in to witness the final showdown of ideas. The event culminated in a gripping final round, where Shivam Sharma and Ajay Rathore emerged as the

deserving winners. Gulshan was also awarded the prestigious title of Judge's Favourite, recognized for their sharp insights and eloquence.

The event, thoroughly enjoyed by the entire batch, was not just a contest but a celebration of ideas, knowledge and the art of debate. It left participants and viewers alike eagerly anticipating the next intellectual face-off at IIM Shillong.

## Bonfire Night: A Cozy Celebration of Camaraderie and Culture at IIM Shillong



**B**onfire Night at IIM Shillong was one of those evenings where the students came together to celebrate camaraderie and unwind over the cool autumn weather. Organized in collaboration by the Hostel Committee and the Food and Beverage Committee, the event had music, dance and shared moments around the warmth of a blazing bonfire.

cultural experiences and bonding over lively beats and melodies. The Food and Beverage Committee carefully arranged snacks and beverages that complemented the cozy ambiance perfectly.

There was a lively dance and music performance by the students during the night that filled the air with joy and oneness. The participants took turns sharing their personal stories, exchanging

As the night was progressing, sparklers filled the sky and all the students gathered to celebrate this night. Bonfire Night represents the culture that IIM Shillong is all about, a very vibrant and inclusive place where everybody brings warmth to the community. This break from the normal academic routine not only refreshed but strengthened the bonds that define the IIM Shillong family.



## Wall Of Gratitude: An Initiative of Team Oasis on Mental Health Day



On Mental Health Awareness Day, the 10th of October, 2024, Team Oasis at IIM Shillong organized an event called the "Wall of Gratitude," which celebrated the importance of gratitude as a means of achieving mental health. Through this interactive initiative, students were encouraged to use sticky notes to express appreciation and think back on the good things in their lives. To express gratitude for the people, events and experiences that have enhanced their travels, participants posted personal notes.

Everyone was reminded of the love and care that surrounded them by the Wall of Gratitude, which created a communal area full of happiness and connection. Mental resilience requires both mindfulness and a sense of community, both

of which were promoted by this easy activity of reflecting on our blessings.

It's simple to forget how important it is to take a moment to recognize our blessings in the hectic world of being an MBA student. The Wall of Gratitude acted as a gentle reminder that acknowledging our benefits can have a positive effect on mental health by promoting inner peace, perspective and happiness. This endeavour for Mental Health Awareness Day demonstrated how tiny acts of gratitude can foster resilience and strengthen the campus community in the face of the demands of coursework, tests and career goals.

## Film Screening | Behind the Lens: Zeitgeist Hosts 'Manjunath' Screening



Zeitgeist recently hosted an exclusive screening of the film 'Manjunath', followed by an insightful session with its director, Mr. Sandeep A. Varma.

Mr. Varma detailed his inspiring journey into filmmaking, providing a glimpse into the creative process of capturing his ideas through the lens. His interactions with students were both engaging and motivational, as he shared valuable lessons from his journey. Notably, he emphasized how his MBA background played a crucial role throughout his career.

# Stock Auction



**O**n the 21st of October, 2024, Team Niveshak hosted its much-anticipated annual stock auction event, an engaging competition designed to test participants' knowledge in finance and simulate real-world stock market dynamics. The event unfolded in two structured phases, a quiz round and a mock stock auction.

## Phase 1: Quiz

The event kicked off with a rigorous quiz round, featuring a series of questions that tested participants' understanding of finance, accounting and quantitative aptitude. This phase drew an impressive turnout, with over eighty teams competing against each other. The teams were not only evaluated on the accuracy of their answers but also on the speed with which they responded. This dual criterion ensured that only the most knowledgeable and agile teams progressed.

## Phase 2: Stock Auction

On the 26th of October, 2024, the top fifteen teams from the quiz round advanced to the second phase, a mock stock auction simulation. Each team was allocated a specific budget, which they used to build a diversified portfolio. The portfolios included a mix of large-cap, mid-cap, small-cap and foreign stocks, with options to take both long and short positions. This setup allowed participants to demonstrate strategic decision-making skills and their understanding of portfolio management in a dynamic environment.

The event successfully combined theoretical finance concepts with practical application, fostering a competitive yet educational atmosphere for all participants.

# OPTIMUS 24.1

**W**ith a commitment to excellence in operational knowledge, Team Op-Era successfully launched Optimus 24.1, a nationwide online quiz that engaged eight hundred and forty participants from over twenty five prominent business schools nationwide. Designed to push the limits of both aptitude and industry expertise, Optimus 24.1 featured two distinct rounds, the first, challenging participants' aptitude and logical reasoning and the second, testing their depth in operations, supply

chain management, logistics, e-commerce and recent industry trends

The enthusiastic participation and positive feedback from Optimus 24.1 established it as a platform that extended beyond traditional competition, bridging academic knowledge with real-world industry insights. Through complex, relevant questions, participants tackled current operational challenges, expanding their perspectives and honing essential

skills for today's dynamic landscape. The event culminated with standout performances from teams representing IRMA Ahmedabad, IIM Shillong and DoMS IIT Roorkee, showcasing their expertise in both foundational and emerging topics in operations. Optimus 24.1 not only highlighted

the participants' talent but also reinforced Team Op-Era's commitment to fostering industry-aligned learning within the academic community, solidifying its reputation for organizing impactful, caliber events.

## CONGRATULATORY NOTE

We are thrilled to announce that Professor Mousumi Bhattacharya had the privilege of representing IIM Shillong at an invited talk on **"Fintech and its Impact on Banking Services"** on the 11th of September, 2024. The event took place at the Reserve Bank of India in Shillong and was broadcast nationwide in all RBI offices.

Attached are some snapshots taken during this significant event, along with the memento received by Professor Mousumi Bhattacharya. She expressed heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to engage with the policymakers of India's central bank, showcasing the excellence of our institution.

Team NUKSA congratulates you on this remarkable achievement, Professor Mousumi Bhattacharya!





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