NEHU PANORAMA

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS ORGANIZED SPECIAL LECTURES

The Department of Economics, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, organised two activities in the month of October 2026. The dept organized a special lecture on 7th October, 2026 in honour of Prof Bhagirathi Panda, Dept of Economics, NEHU who superannuated on 31st sept, 2026 after 23 years of distinguished service to the department. The lecture, chaired by Hon VC, NEHU Prof S. K. Barik was introduced by Prof Chittaranjan Nayak, Head Dept of Economics, NEHU. Prof Charan Singh, Rtd prof IIM Bangalore and Founder Director, Egrow Foundation, delivered the special lecture.



The Dept also organized an ICSSR funded International Conference on GST titled "GST Reforms in India: Towards Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Growth 8-9 October, 2026". Prof Chittaranjan Nayak, Head of the dept, and Dr. Darishisha W. Thankhiew were the convenor and co-convenor of the conference and Dr Rajib Sutradhar served as an organizing secretary. Prof C. Nayak gave the welcome address in the inauguration session, which is followed by the Presidential address delivered by Hon V.C. NEHU, Prof S.K.Barik. Prof Sacchinananda Mukherjee from NIPFP delivered the keynote address and Prof Kaustav Dalal, Mid Sweden University, was the chief guest for the event.

The conference saw presentation of more than 38 papers, both online and offline, and involvement of more than 30 resource persons that include academics and practitioners. The conference organized two panel discussions, two special lecture and 8 parallel sessions, that include 4 online sessions and 4 offline sessions and two panel discussions. Highlight of the conference was round table discussion titled "GST @ North-East: Perspective, Challenges & the Way Forward" \involving academics and practitioners from North East India. The conference concluded with a valedictory session presided over by Prof Tara Prasad Bhusal from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

THE CLIMATE FESTIVAL OF LIFE AT NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY (NEHU)



North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, hosted the travelling national climate festival, "Festivals of Life: Where the Rivers, Forests, Mountains, Coasts and Oceans Are!", from 5 to 9 October 2026 at its Multi-Use Convention Hall. The festival was organised by Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Department of Geography, NEHU.

The festival aimed to build climate awareness among young people by bringing together art, culture and science, with a special focus on the ecosystems and climate vulnerabilities of Northeast India. The inaugural ceremony on 5 October was attended by NEHU Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. K. Barik, Prof. D. Walia, Prof. P. K. Ryngnga, Prof. S. K. De and Vidya Ramesh from Azim Premji University.

The speakers highlighted the importance of youth participation and the direct connection between ecosystems and human survival.

The five-day festival featured more than 300 research panels, photographs and maps documenting environmental issues. It also included interactive installations, environmental film screenings, expert talks, cultural performances and guided biodiversity walks across the NEHU campus.

A two-day teacher orientation and training programme was conducted on 8–9 October to familiarise educators with ways of incorporating climate data into classroom activities and field-based learning.

The festival attracted school and college students, educators, researchers and local organisations from across the region. Through its interactive activities and collaborative approach, the event encouraged environmental awareness and local stewardship while providing a platform for youth engagement in climate action.

ICSSR-SPONSORED TEN-DAY RESEARCH METHODOLOGY COURSE AT NEHU



The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, organised an ICSSR-sponsored Ten-Day Research Methodology Course (RMC) from 5 to 15 October 2026. The programme was led by Prof. Manash P. Goswami as Course Director and Dr. Kamaljit Chirom as Co-course Director.

A total of 30 research scholars from Bihar, Jammu, Nagaland, Bilaspur, Tezpur, Meghalaya and other regions participated in the course. The participants represented diverse academic disciplines, including Journalism and Mass Communication, Sociology, Political Science, Tourism, Linguistics, Economics and Commerce.

The programme featured resource persons from institutions such as NEHU, IIMC, Tezpur University, IIM Shillong, EFL University, Guru Jambheshwar University, North East Regional Institute of Education (NERIE) and the Central University of Odisha. Across 40 sessions, including inaugural and valedictory sessions and a field tour, participants explored foundational research concepts, methodological approaches and advanced analytical techniques.

A major focus of the course was the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in academic research. Through lectures and practical demonstrations, participants explored AI-assisted literature reviews, research gap identification, data organisation and academic writing.

The sessions also addressed ethical considerations, emphasising originality, critical thinking and academic integrity.

The programme highlighted Indian Knowledge Systems, indigenous knowledge, oral traditions and community-based research. A field visit to Smit and Laitlum provided participants with an opportunity to understand Khasi cultural heritage and the relevance of local knowledge and practices in academic research.

Other sessions covered the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative, qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods research, sampling, hypothesis formulation, grounded theory, regression analysis, composite index construction and Structural Equation Modelling. Practical training using SPSS, Jamovi and ADANCO further strengthened participants' research and data analysis skills.

The course concluded on 15 October 2026, providing research scholars with an opportunity to enhance their methodological understanding, engage with emerging research technologies and interact with academicians from diverse academic backgrounds.

CAPACITY BUILDING-CUM-WORKSHOP ON ICAR-IIHR TECHNOLOGIES FOR NUTRITIONAL SECURITY HELD AT NEHU TURA CAMPUS



The Department of Horticulture, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Tura Campus, in collaboration with ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, organised a day-long Capacity Building Programme-cum-Workshop on “ICAR-IIHR Technologies for the Nutritional Security of Farmers of Garo Hills, Meghalaya” on 23 October 2026.

The programme aimed to introduce advanced horticultural technologies to local farmers to improve agricultural productivity, strengthen livelihoods and promote nutritional security. The event witnessed the participation of 145 progressive farmers from Gambegre, Dadeng, Dalu and Rongram development blocks.

Welcoming the participants, Organising Secretary Prof. C. P. Suresh highlighted the importance of introducing advanced agricultural interventions in West Garo Hills. Prof. J. U. Ahmed, Campus In-Charge of NEHU Tura, emphasised the role of academic institutions in supporting community development and local agricultural economies.

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OBSERVANCE OF SWACHHTA HI SEVA: "EK DIN, EK GHANTA, EK SAATH" ON 1 OCTOBER 2026

The Department of Sociology, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), observed the Swachhta Hi Seva campaign under the theme "Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" on 1 October 2026.

As part of the observance, the department organised a cleaning drive and tree plantation programme involving faculty members, staff, students and research scholars. The programme commenced with the plantation of tree saplings by the Head of the Department, Prof. R. M. Shangpliang, followed by a cleanliness drive in the surrounding areas.

The programme concluded with the distribution of tea and snacks among the participants, reinforcing the importance of collective participation in maintaining a clean and green campus.



DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS, NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY (NEHU), SHILLONG, ORGANISES AN EXPERT TALK



The Department of Physics, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, organised an expert talk on "Advanced Optical Nanostructures: Industrial Applications to Quantum Emitters Interface" on 22 October 2026. The invited lecture was delivered by Prof. Rajan Jha from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar.

The lecture aimed to familiarise students, research scholars and faculty members with recent developments in optical nanostructures, nanophotonics and their applications in industrial technologies and quantum emitter systems.
Prof. Jha discussed the role of advanced optical nanostructures in manipulating light at the nanoscale and controlling light-matter interactions. He highlighted how engineered nanostructures can enhance optical properties and improve the performance of photonic devices.

A key focus of the talk was the interaction between optical nanostructures and quantum emitters, which has significant potential in quantum communication, quantum information processing, optical sensing and emerging quantum technologies.
The lecture also explored the industrial applications of nanostructures in advanced photonic devices, optical sensors, light management and materials engineering, highlighting the growing importance of nanophotonics in addressing modern technological challenges.

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP ON "PATENT DRAFTING & FILING: BUILDING A CAREER IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PATENT PRACTICE"



The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell of North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, in collaboration with the DPIIT IPR Chair at IIT Guwahati, organised a hands-on workshop titled "Patent Drafting & Filing: Building a Career in Intellectual Property and Patent Practice" on 9 October 2026.

The workshop commenced with an inaugural session featuring ceremonial lamp lighting and the felicitation of dignitaries. Dr. Rajesh Kumar Sharma, Coordinator of the IPR Cell at NEHU, delivered the welcome address. The session also featured addresses by Prof. S. R. Joshi, Guest of Honour; Dr. Pankaj Kumar, DPIIT IPR Chair Professor at IIT Guwahati; and Prof. S. K. Barik, Vice-Chancellor of NEHU, who attended as the Chief Guest. The inaugural programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Satya Prakash Pati, followed by the National Anthem.

The technical sessions covered fundamental concepts of intellectual property rights, career opportunities and Indian patenting procedures. Dr. Pankaj Kumar conducted the first session on understanding IPR and career pathways, while IP Attorney Manas Barman, Associate at IP Constellation, shared industry perspectives on intellectual property fundamentals. Dr. Suman Majee, Research Officer at the DPIIT IPR Chair, IIT Guwahati, discussed practical aspects of Indian patenting procedures.

Mrs. Akanksha B. Amarnani also shared her career transition from an M.Sc. background into the field of intellectual property. An intensive computer laboratory session led by Dr. Pankaj Kumar provided participants with hands-on experience in patent searching, drafting and filing.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks by Dr. S. Majaw, followed by an interactive feedback session. Participants appreciated the practical learning opportunities and career guidance provided during the programme.

NEHU Panorama Wishes Its Retiring Employees a Happy, Healthy and Fulfilling Retirement



1. Smti Ngurthansangi Sailo – Assistant Registrar, P & S Section.
2. Smti Meodoris Warbah – Personal Assistant, Department of Political Science.
3. Smti Olivia Nongrum – Junior Library Assistant, NEHU Central Library.
4. Shri Satendra Kumar – LDC, Hindi Cell.
5. Shri Romarius Tynshain Swer – MTS (Gate Keeper), NEHU Central Library.
6. Shri Hobringstar Ranee – MTS (Gate Keeper), NEHU Central Library.

Wangala: The 100 Drums Festival of the Garos



The Wangala Festival is one of the most important festivals celebrated by the Garo tribe of Meghalaya, India. It is a harvest festival held to honour Saljong, the Sun God, who is believed to bring fertility and a good harvest. The festival marks the end of hard work in the fields and celebrates the successful harvest. It also marks the beginning of the winter season.

Wangala is also known as the 100 Drums Festival. During this festival, the Garos offer prayers and sacrifices to thank Saljong for a good harvest. The celebration usually lasts for two days, but sometimes continues for a week. The first day is called Ragula, which is performed at the house of the village chief. The second day is called Kakkat, when people gather to celebrate through traditional dances and music.

Men, women and children wear colourful traditional clothes and beautiful feathered headgear. They dance in two parallel lines, with men on one side and women on the other. Men play traditional musical instruments such as drums, gongs and flutes, while everyone dances to the rhythm. The sound of the drums and the energetic dance performances create a joyful atmosphere throughout the hills and valleys.

Overall, the Wangala Festival plays an important role in preserving and promoting the culture, traditions and identity of the Garo community. It is also an opportunity for people to come together, celebrate their harvest and pass their cultural practices on to future generations.

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