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**REPORT OF THE  
TWELFTH S. C. DUTTA MEMORIAL LECTURE, 2026**

*On the Theme*

*“The future is AI: Exploring the Frontiers of Intelligence”*

*Organised by*

**Department of Statistics, Shillong College, Shillong**

*Held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, 2026*

The Department of Statistics, Shillong College organized the Twelfth S. C. Dutta Memorial Lecture on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, 2026 at 11:30 AM in the Principal’s Conference Hall. The lecture was titled “The Future is AI: Exploring the Frontiers of Intelligence”, focusing on the growing importance and advancements in artificial intelligence.

The programme was compered by Dr. D. R. Mawkhlieng, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics who emphasized on the purpose of the gathering, promoting academic discussion and awareness as a tribute to Prof. S. C. Dutta and his contribution to education. The event began with the felicitation of the guest speaker, followed by a welcome address delivered by Shri D. M. Syiem, Head of the Department of Statistics, Shillong College. Dr. S. Khongwir, principal of Shillong College then addressed the audience, highlighting the significance of such academic lectures in enhancing students’ knowledge and awareness of emerging fields like AI.

Smti Juliancy Kharwanlang, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, introduced the guest speaker, briefly outlining his academic achievements, research spans in time-series modelling with around 140 publications in reputed journals and his international contribution as faculty in Bhutan through the Ministry of External Affairs. He also has previously served as a senior scientist at the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI), New Delhi.

The guest speaker, Dr. B. Gurung, Professor and Head of the Department of Statistics at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, delivered the keynote lecture. The session explored various aspects of artificial intelligence, its applications, and its future potential across different domains. The current state of AI shows rapid progress in fields like machine learning, natural language processing, and computer vision. AI is widely used across sectors such as healthcare, education, finance, and transportation, improving efficiency and accuracy.

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The lecture also discusses transformative applications, including AI-assisted medical diagnosis, autonomous systems like self-driving cars, and intelligent decision-support tools, demonstrating AI's role in shaping the future.

A significant portion of the lecture focused on diverse real-world applications of AI. These include language translation systems developed in India to support education in regional languages, authorship detection and sentiment analysis in literature, and environmental applications such as landslide and flood risk mapping. AI is also applied in healthcare (e.g., seizure detection), agriculture (crop yield prediction and pest forecasting), and climate studies (drought and price forecasting), showcasing its interdisciplinary impact.

Finally, the lecture addresses ethical considerations and future challenges of AI. It introduces the MANAV framework, which promotes human-centered, ethical, and inclusive AI development with accountability and transparency. While acknowledging AI's strengths, the lecture also reminds that AI has limitations and cannot replace fundamental scientific inquiry. It concludes by reinforcing that science and knowledge will always remain essential, even as AI continues to evolve.

The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, allowing participants to engage with the speaker. A vote of thanks was delivered by Smti Ibalucky Khyriem, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, who expressed gratitude to the guest speaker, the organizing team and the audience for the active participation. The event ended with refreshments, marking a successful and informative academic gathering.


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## PHOTOS



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**Dr. S. Khongwir**  
*Principal*  
*Shillong College*

  
**Shri D. M. Syiem**  
*HOD, Department of Statistics*  
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