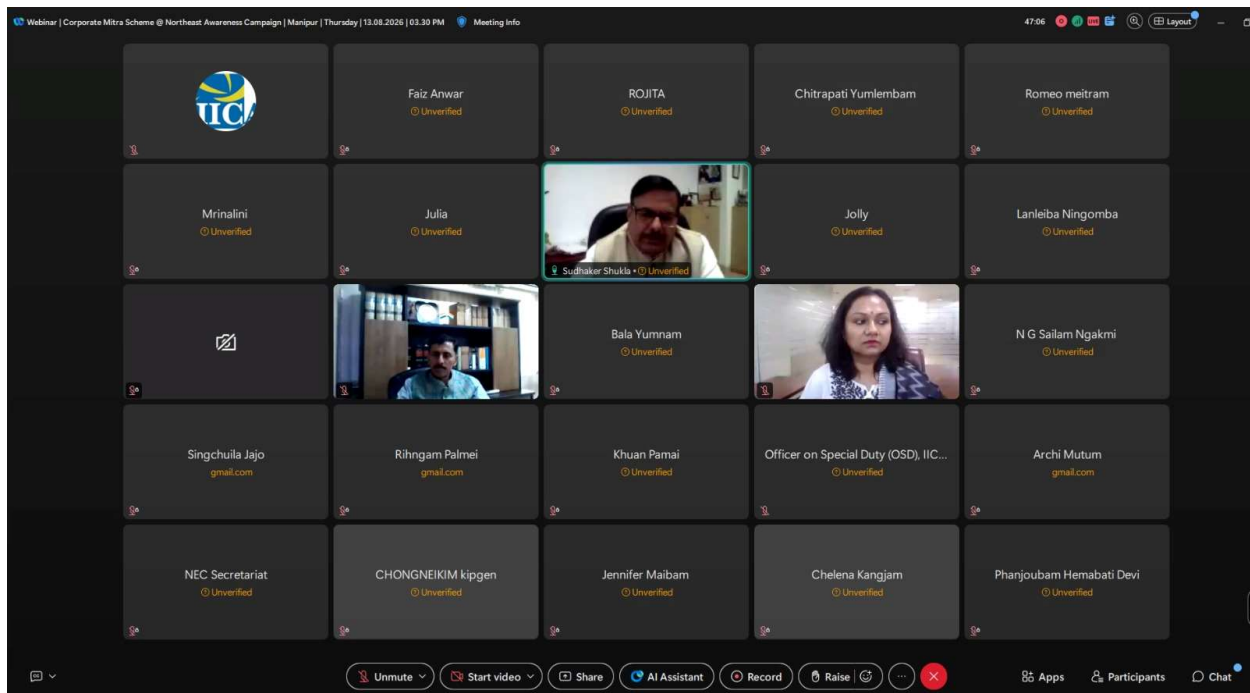


EVENT REPORT

Corporate Mitra Initiative Awareness Webinar organized by IICA Shillong, Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the state of Manipur with engaging participation of local youth, professionals and enterprises

The **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs Shillong (IICA-Sh.)**, under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India**, successfully organised a strategic outreach webinar on 13 August 2026 on the Corporate Mitra initiative, for the youth, students, professionals and enterprises from Manipur. The webinar sought to create awareness and promote the Corporate Mitra initiative - among relevant stakeholders from Manipur and from across the North Eastern Region, underscoring its aims to foster youth employment and entrepreneurship while increasing formalization among informal enterprises, thereby enhancing their access to finance and markets. The programme brought together senior government officials, academic leaders, regional stakeholder representatives and representatives of professional institutes (ICAI, ICSI and ICMAI) to deliberate and present the nuances and competencies of this flagship initiative – **with encouraging participation of 450+ local students, professionals & MSMEs.**



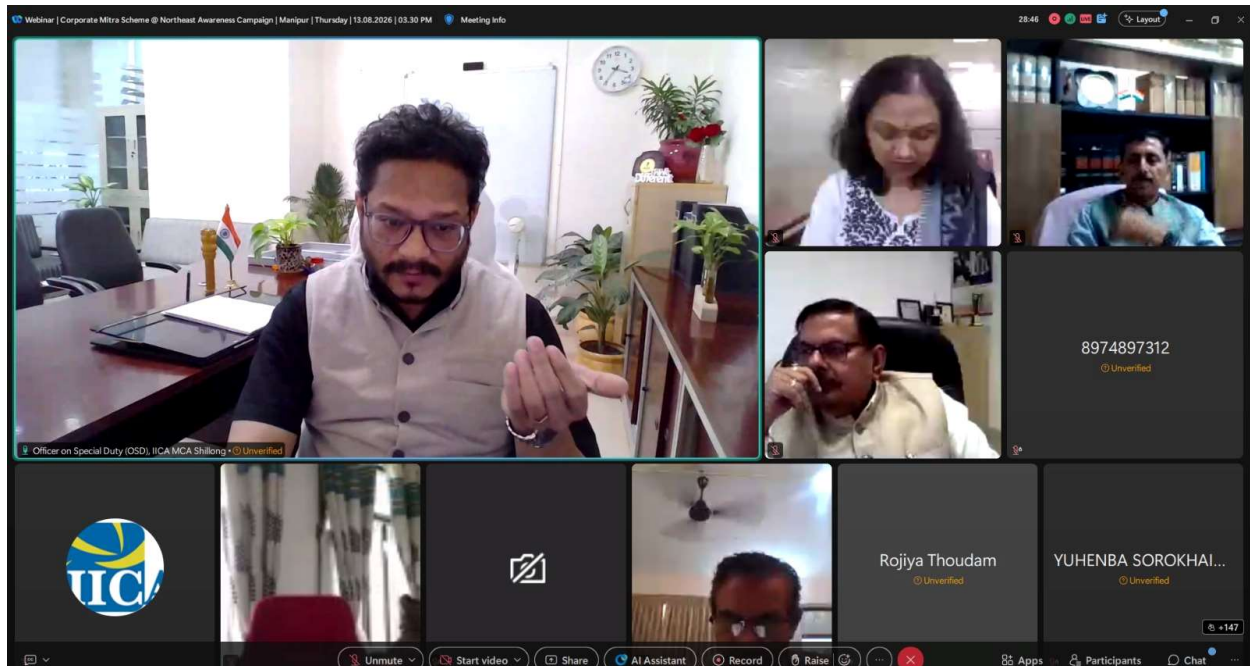
The Corporate Mitra Scheme, introduced in the Union Budget 2026-27, is a strategic initiative to formalise and sustain the MSME sector, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047. The initiative seeks to build a formalised, financially sustainable and thriving MSME ecosystem by creating a strong support framework that provides enterprises access to a pool of qualified, accredited and

trusted para-professionals — “Corporate Mitras”. These Corporate Mitras are envisaged as business support para-professionals to deliver high quality, cost-effective assistance to local enterprises in non-core aspects of business operation such as regulatory compliance, taxation, accounting, financial management, and legal and secretarial practices. Corporate Mitras are expected to enable local entrepreneurs and MSMEs to focus on innovation, market expansion and business growth - by mitigating administrative and compliance burdens, while simultaneously generating meaningful employment and livelihood opportunities for the local youth.

For rollout and implementation in the Northeast region, the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)-Shillong, under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, is the nodal agency for outreach, promotion and implementation in coordination and liaison with State Governments and other stakeholders.

The webinar commenced with opening remarks by **Sangeeta Boruah, Academic Lead and Principal Researcher- Entrepreneurship & MSME ecosystems, IICA Shillong**. She outlined the scheme’s mission to empower MSMEs and start-ups through a skilled pool of job-ready enterprise service facilitators and emphasized the dual focus on youth skilling and enterprise support.

Sh. Debarun Kalita – The Officer on Special Duty (OSD), IICA Shillong, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and designated Nodal Officer for the Corporate Mitra initiative for the Northeast, in his welcome address - introduced the Corporate Mitra initiative as a key measure to empower MSMEs and advance the national vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Sh. Kalita outlined the initiative's objectives to stimulate entrepreneurship and ease of doing business, particularly in the Northeastern region. Sh. Kalita further remarked that the initiative is designed to equip local youth and students with enhanced employability skills, additional income opportunities and the accord the chance to earn while learning, thereby enabling them to become agents of national transformation. Sh. Kalita remarked the Corporate Mitra initiative eventually facilitates in – the two-core pillar of the Indian growth engine i.e. youth and business- in coming together with confluence approach and convergence of efforts and thereby start to function in an economically symbiotic relationship – each aiding, facilitating and supporting the other segment in their respective development and growth, in which trained local youth support MSMEs while gaining practical enterprise exposure. Informing that the scheme’s conceptualization was shaped by the unique challenges of the Northeast region—enterprise scale-up constraints, high compliance costs and a shortage of local statutory professionals— Sh. Kalita underscored the alignment of the initiative with the vision of The Hon’ble Prime Minister for the Northeast as the "new engine of India's growth" and emphasized the importance of successful implementation of the Scheme in NER states, particularly Manipur. Sh. Kalita called upon the eligible youth and students of Manipur—the “Jewel of India”— to mass enrol so that the state may emerge as a shining success story of the Corporate Mitra scheme.



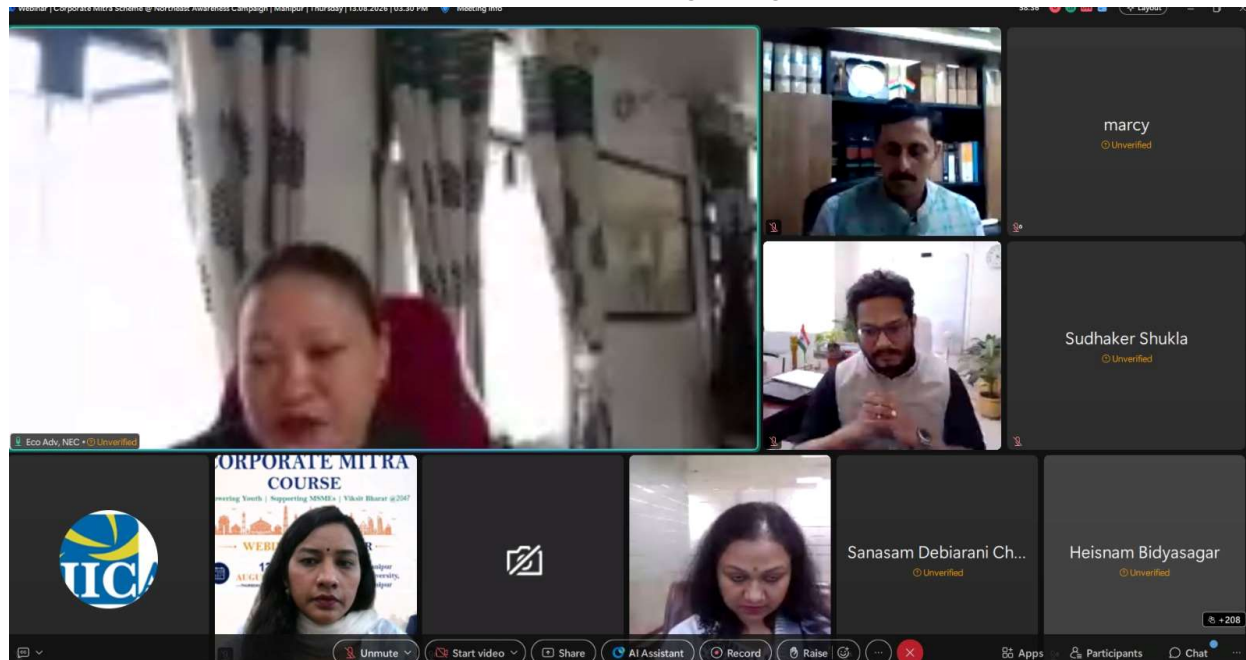
The webinar featured a special address by **Shri Sanjay Kumar Gupta, ICLS, Regional Director, NER, Ministry of Corporate Affairs** – who highlighted the acute shortage of professional services in Manipur and underscored the scheme’s potential impact in addressing this gap. He stressed that the Corporate Mitra initiative would play a vital role in bridging the professional services deficit and strengthening the MSME ecosystem in the state.



Sh. Sudhaker Shukla, IES, former Whole Time Member (WTM), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India and Head, Centre for Insolvency & Bankruptcy at Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, delivered the expert address – dwelling upon the unique features of the Corporate Initiative in terms of its target audience scope – both youth and MSMEs. Sh. Shukla remarked the Corporate Mitras would be the future drivers of economy for the nation and to be at the forefront in facilitating entrepreneurship and small business to grow, expand and upscale – culminating into realization of the Viksit Bharat Vision. Sh. Shukla underpinned that Corporate Mitras in the near future shall be rightly poised at the juncture of youth and businesses as progress agents and economy catalyst.

Smt. Sherry Lalhangzo, IES, Economic Adviser, North Eastern Council, Government of India delivered the keynote address for the event. Smt. Lalhangzo shared valuable insights into the regional infrastructure developments and export opportunities in Manipur. She reinforced the need for skilled facilitators to support entrepreneurship and help local enterprises leverage emerging opportunities, thereby contributing to inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the region. Smt. Lalhangzo while highlighting on the rapid growth of infrastructure, expansion of connectivity – air, telecom & roads, advancements in economic prosperity, stressed upon the need for the region to bridge the gap in areas of employability competencies, entrepreneurial progress – which the corporate Mitra initiative is aptly designed to address. Smt. Lalhangzo underscored the importance of unique initiatives like the Corporate Mitra in further accelerating the regions' socio-economic development and for the region to avail the benefits offered by such skilling and

entrepreneurship facilitation initiatives. She reaffirmed the potential of the northeast to contribute profoundly towards a Viksit Bharat - and the be the nation's frontier engine of growth and transformation.



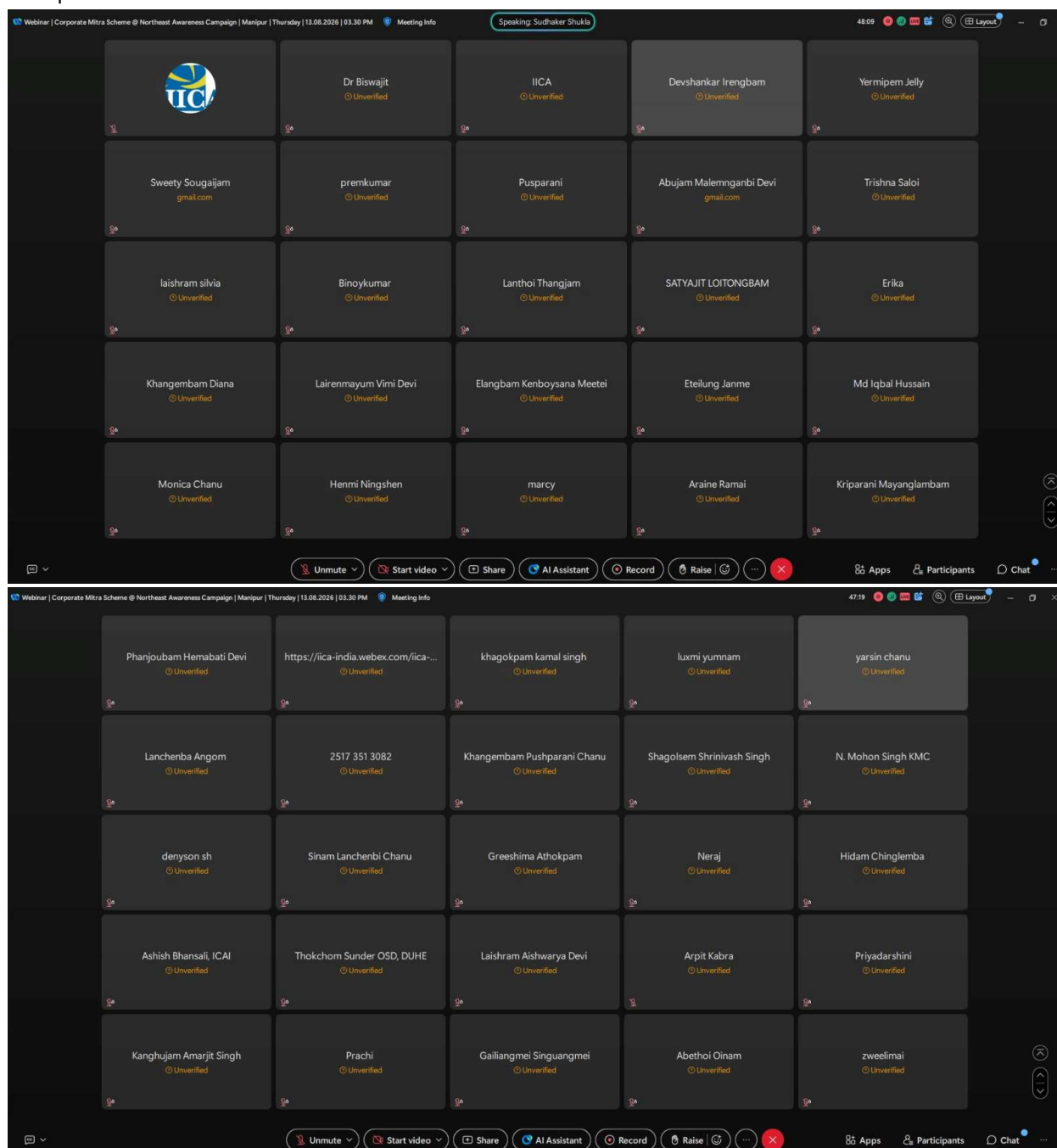
An insightful technical session was delivered by **CA (Sh.) Arpit Kabra, Central Council Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**, who presented a comprehensive overview of the Corporate Mitra Scheme, explaining its objectives, structure, certification framework, eligibility, career prospects, and the core competencies expected from Corporate Mitras. He detailed the course structure of the course - comprising online modules, webinars and internships with MSMEs, and further presented on the modules covering accounting, taxation, compliance, financial management, legal aspects, financing and credit profiling. The presentation provided participants with practical insights into the professional opportunities available under the scheme and the accessible, self-paced learning modality.

The technical sessions was followed with an engaging and active participation of the students from Manipur, deliberating on the unique role of Corporate Mitras as agents of commerce, trade & business facilitation—highlighting further their role in offering affordable compliance support to MSMEs, especially in underserved areas. Collaboration with local professionals, MSME associations and federations was encouraged to enhance service delivery and compliance. The interactive Q&A session covered internship scheduling and flexibility, opportunities for independent and collective practice, sector-specific training, age eligibility, support for informal enterprises, and the evolving nature of the scheme. Experts noted that internships are largely online and self-paced; that Corporate Mitras can establish independent or collective practices; that sector-specific expertise is expected to develop during on-the-job training; and that the scheme remains open to feedback for future cohorts, including potential specialization tracks and policy adjustments.

The webinar concluded with a formal vote of thanks from **Neha Singh, Secretariat of IICA Shillong**, who expressed deep gratitude to the leadership of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Director General of IICA, academic partners from Manipur University, professional institutes (ICAI, ICSI, ICMAI and others), regional government officials, and all participants. She reiterated the collective commitment to successful

implementation of the Corporate Mitra Scheme for the benefit of the youth and MSMEs of Manipur and the wider North Eastern Region. Participants were encouraged to engage through official channels for ongoing support.

The programme witnessed the wholehearted and engaging participation of students, faculty members, aspiring professionals, entrepreneurs, regional government representatives and other stakeholders, reaffirming the ardent interest in the Corporate Mitra initiative across the North Eastern Region especially from the state of Manipur.



(Issued by Secretariat of IICA Shillong, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India)
