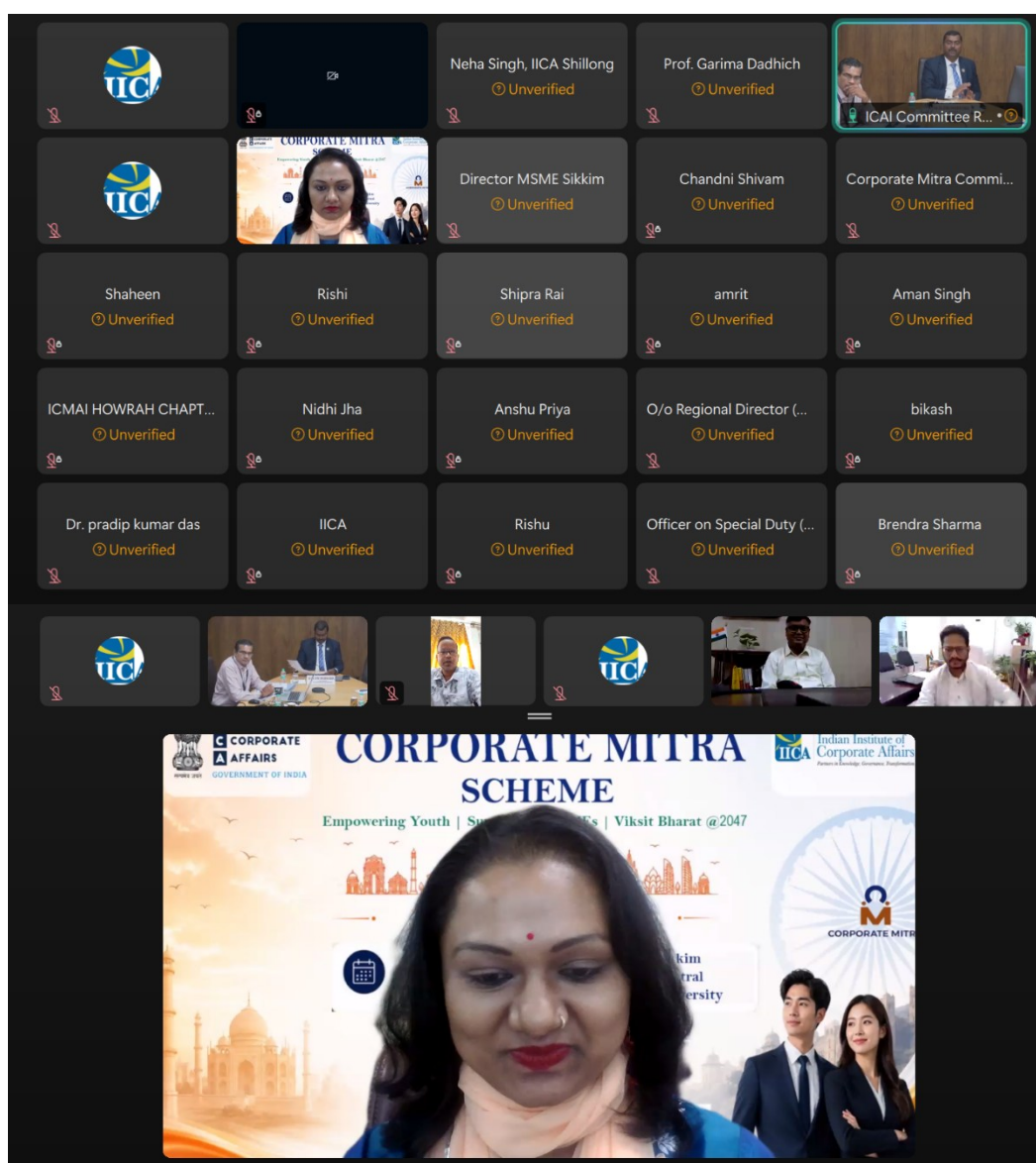


PROGRAM REPORT

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs Shillong (IICA-Sh.), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with Sikkim University, and support of—ICAI (lead co-host), ICSI (support co-host), and ICMAI(support co-host), successfully organized an webinar on 31st July 2026 on the Corporate Mitra initiative with engaging participation of the youth, students, professionals and enterprises of Sikkim.

The webinar intended to create awareness and promote the Corporate Mitra Scheme for relevant target audiences across Sikkim, with focus on highlighting the role of the initiative in building a skilled, employable workforce and powering MSMEs towards sustainable growth, expansion, and scaling. The webinar on the Corporate Mitra Scheme for Sikkim and the Northeast region brought together government officials, academic leaders, and professional institute representatives to discuss this initiative aimed at empowering MSMEs and youth.



The Corporate Mitra Scheme, introduced in the Union Budget 2026-27, is a strategic initiative designed to formalize and sustain the MSME sector, particularly within Tier 1 and 2 cities, to align

with the Viksit Bharat @ 2047 vision. The framework establishes a robust support ecosystem by training and accrediting young graduates as "Corporate Mitras," creating a specialized cadre of business support para-professionals. These accredited professionals will deliver high-quality, cost-effective assistance to local enterprises, addressing critical non-core operational needs such as regulatory compliance, taxation, accounting, and corporate governance. Consequently, this intervention mitigates administrative burdens, ensuring enterprises maintain rigorous regulatory compliance while systematically redirecting institutional capacity toward innovation, market expansion, and economic growth. Corporate Mitras serve as trusted advisors to MSMEs, handling compliance, accounting, taxation, and legal matters, which allows entrepreneurs to focus on business development and scaling. The scheme provides employment opportunities for trained youth and supports MSMEs in navigating complex regulatory environments, thereby fostering sustainable growth and competitiveness.

The webinar commenced with the welcome address and context-setting by **Sh. Debarun Kalita, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) for IICA Shillong, Ministry of Corporate Affairs also the designated Nodal Officer for the Corporate Mitra Scheme for the Northeast**. Sh. Kalita, at the outset expressed his gratitude to the visionary and inspirational leadership of the Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs for her strategic guidance in developing the Corporate Mitra concept. Sh. Kalita also placed his utmost appreciation to the Director General, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Sh. Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, under whose able stewardship and astute foresight, the Corporate Mitra was conceived, structured and given shape. Sh. Kalita also conveyed his gratitude to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Sh. Rahul Jain, for his oversight in steering of the Scheme's implementation strategy and rollout plan.

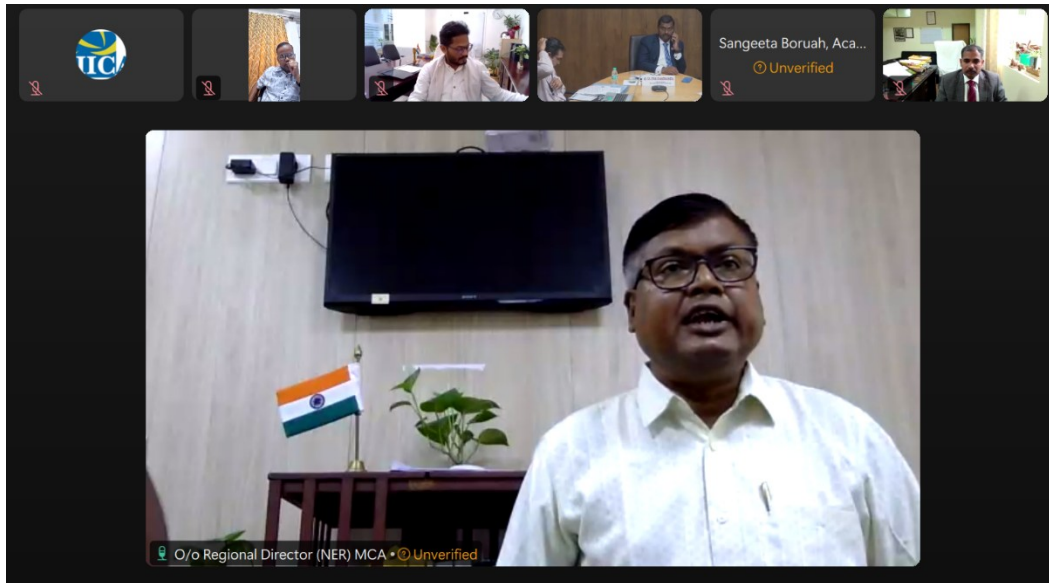
Sh. Kalita OSD, in his address, outlined the scheme's objectives to create a network of trained para professionals supporting MSMEs with compliance and business functions, fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth aligned with the national mission of a Viksit Bharat @ 2047. Sh. Kalita remarked about the initiative's design being attuned to the northeast's regions felt needs and emphasized about the Scheme's development context being based on the unique challenges faced by the Northeast region. He highlighted the focus attached to the Northeast region, with seats exclusively earmarked along-with a 50% fee concession for candidates from region, to encourage participation and uptake. Sh. Kalita underscored significance of the Corporate Mitra initiative to realize the vision of The Hon'ble Prime Minister for the Northeast as the "new engine of India's growth" and emphasized the importance of its' successful implementation in NER states, particularly Sikkim. Sh. Kalita further shared the development context and conceiving of the Corporate Mitra concept, to address the inherent challenges faced by the MSMEs in business growth, scale-up and expansion, particularly from the northeast, on account of regulatory and secretarial compliance burden, lack of affordable business advisory/support professionals and the need for transformative initiatives towards Ease of Doing Business (EODB).



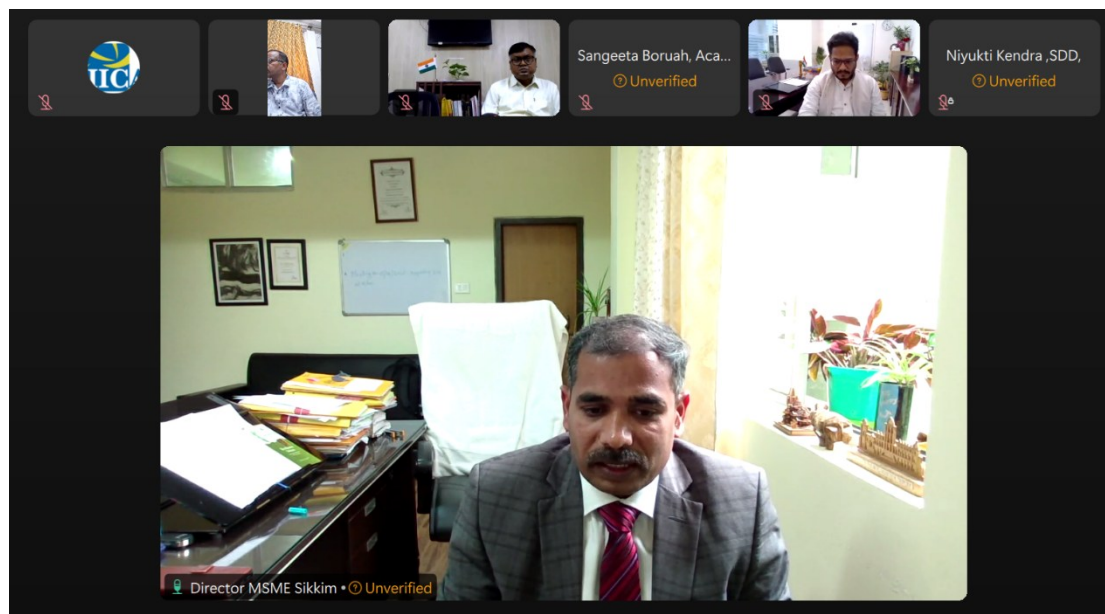
Dr. Pradip Kumar Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Sikkim University, in his Special address, emphasized the region's entrepreneurial spirit and the importance of collaboration, and highlighted the importance of collaboration between industry, government, and educational institutions to augmenting entrepreneurship and economic growth in Sikkim and the Northeast. He fervently welcomed termed the Corporate Mitra initiative and termed it as central in realizing of the Viksit Bharat by 2047.

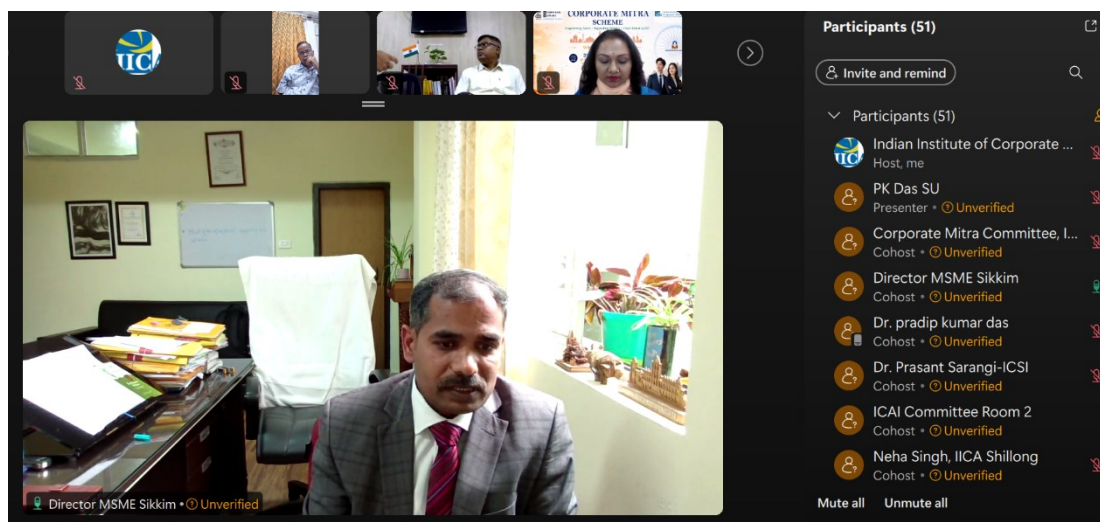


The event featured a Special Address by **Shri Harihara Sahoo, ICLS, Joint Director, Regional Directorate (North Eastern Region), Ministry of Corporate Affairs,** who highlighted the significance of creating a skilled workforce to strengthen the MSME ecosystem and promote corporate compliance across the region. He underscored the importance of the youth and enterprises facilitating each other through this initiative - towards a Viksit Bharat.

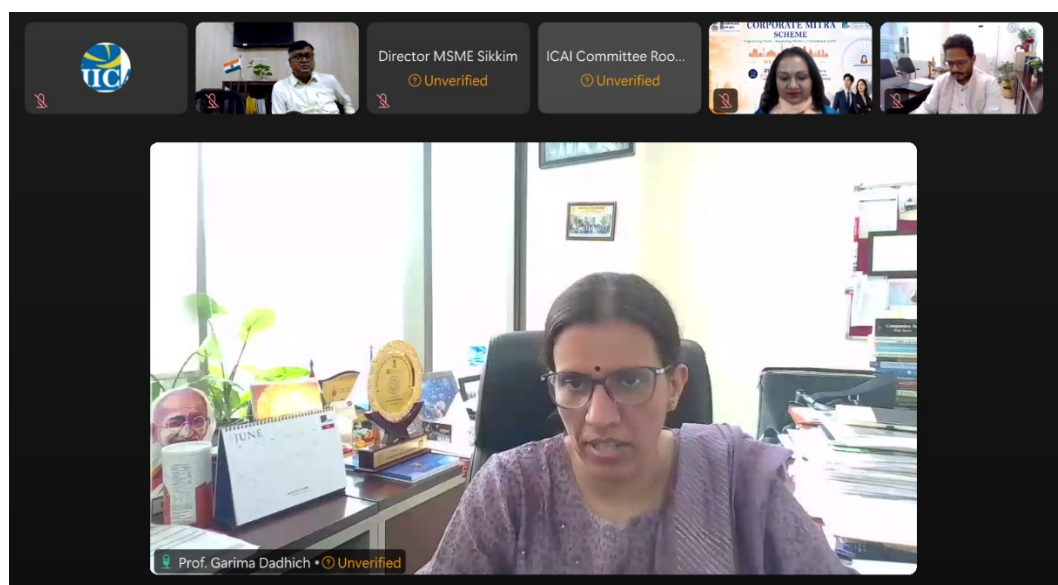


The Keynote Address was delivered by **Shri M. Ravi Kumar, IFS, Principal Director, MSME, Commerce & Industries Department, Government of Sikkim**, who underscored the importance of the Corporate Mitra Scheme in enhancing employability, fostering entrepreneurship, and supporting the growth of MSMEs in the North Eastern Region. Sh. Kumar remarked on the initiative being a step to alleviate MSMEs' burden of compliance and administrative tasks and that Corporate Mitras can work part-time, supplementing income while supporting local businesses, with the scheme offering industry-relevant training tailored to MSME needs. Sh. Kumar remarked Corporate Mitras enhance MSMEs' access to finance, market credibility, and compliance with regulations. He also emphasized the northeast region's potential, the role of education in skill development, and the need for practical exposure to prepare youth for future opportunities. He concluded his addressed reiterating the Sikkim Government's commitment to supporting the scheme's outreach and implementation in the state.





The programme also featured an expert session by Head, School of Business Environment, Centre for Responsible Business Advisory, and Centre for Business and Human Rights, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, **Prof. (Dr.) Garima Dadhich**, who provided valuable insights into responsible business practices and the relevance of the Corporate Mitra initiative in today's evolving business landscape.



The technical session was delivered by **CA Sh. Gyan Chandra Misra, Chairman, MSME & Startup Committee; Vice Chairman, Corporate Mitra Committee; and Central Council Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the lead co-host of the programme.** He presented a comprehensive overview of the Corporate Mitra Scheme, explaining its objectives, core competencies, career opportunities, and its role in developing industry-ready professionals capable of supporting MSMEs in areas such as accounting, taxation, banking and finance, legal and secretarial compliance, and cost and management accounting.

The technical session followed with an engaging and interactive question-and-answer (Q&A) session, allowing participants to seek clarifications from the experts inter alia aspects of about the scheme's relation to other government initiatives, stipend guarantees, training locations, age limits, and course content relevance.

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PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

12 months, in two halves

12 months total duration

PHASE 1

Academic Course

6 months

144 hours of online structured learning + 6 hours of webinar / physical learning. Self-paced and asynchronous, in English & Hindi.

→

PHASE 2

On-the-Job Training

6 months

Practical exposure within recognized professional firms — real-life business environment and employment opportunities.

ICAI

CORPORATE MITRA

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ICAI Commi... • Unverified

Prof. Garima Dadhich • Unverified

Sangeeta Boruah, Academic ... • Unverified

ICAI

Director MSME Sikkim • Unverified

Prof. Garima Dadhich • Unverified

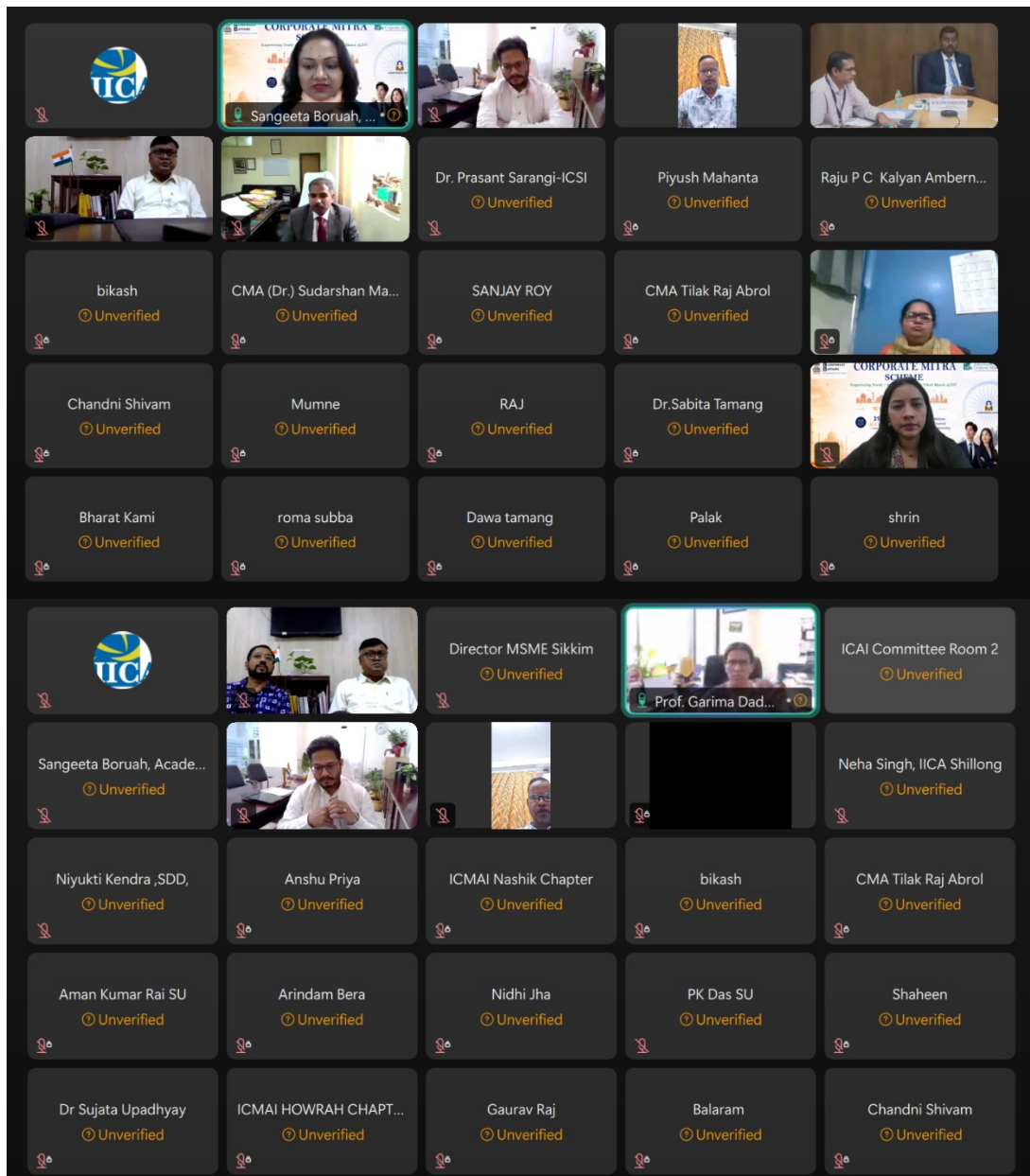
ICAI

CORPORATE MITRA

ICAI Committee Room 2 • Unverified

CA. GYAN CHANDRA MISRA
VICE CHAIRMAN
ICAI CORPORATE MITRA COMMITTEE

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 240 students, faculty members, aspiring professionals, and other stakeholders from Sikkim and across the North Eastern Region, reflecting the growing interest in the Corporate Mitra Scheme. The programme concluded successfully with a strong commitment towards promoting awareness, skill development, and employment opportunities through this flagship initiative of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.



The programme concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks expressing deep gratitude to the leadership at Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Director General, IICA, the Sr. Officials from the Government of Sikkim, and appreciation to all dignitaries, partner institutions, participants and students.