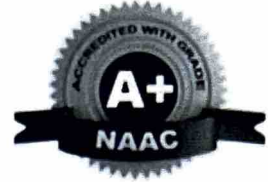




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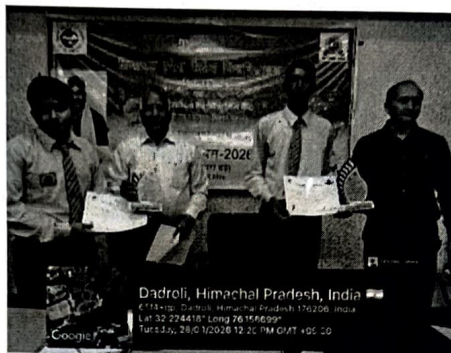
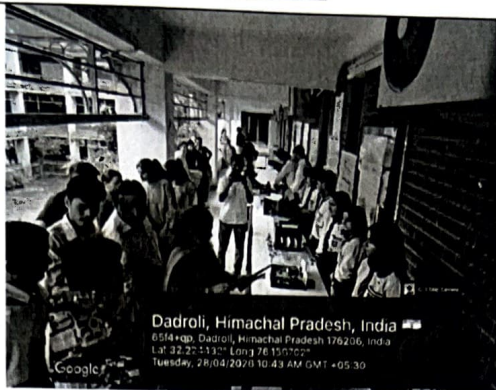


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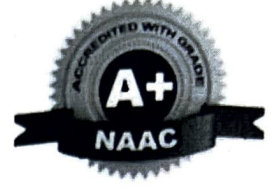
Event Report

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| Name of the Event | Earth Day 2026 Celebrations (22-28 April 2026): "Our Power, Our Planet." |
| Objective of the event | The primary objective of the programme was to foster environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices among students and the academic community. The initiative also aimed to encourage critical engagement with contemporary environmental challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, waste management, and ecological degradation. By integrating academic discourse with creative expression, the programme sought to cultivate a holistic understanding of environmental stewardship and sustainability. |
| Date, Time and Venue | 22-28 April 2026; Seminar Hall, Shahpur Campus, Central University of Himachal Pradesh |
| Convener /Organising Secretary | Dr. Kumar Batuk Joshi (Convener) Dr. Alok Pandey (Co-Convener) Dr. Arun Kumar (Co-convener) |
| Organising Unit | Department of Geology and Centre for Remote Sensing and GIS |
| Participants | More than 70 attendees |
| Outcome of the event | Overall, the Earth Day 2026 celebrations were highly successful in achieving their objectives. The programme effectively combined academic rigor with creative engagement, providing a comprehensive platform for learning, interaction, and awareness. It fostered a deeper understanding of environmental issues among participants and encouraged the adoption of sustainable practices in everyday life. The event reaffirmed the institution's commitment to environmental stewardship and its role in nurturing responsible and environmentally conscious citizens. |
| Expenditure & Funding Agency if anyone otherwise CUHP | 1. Ministry of Earth Sciences |
| Photos (atleast one geo-tag) | |





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1. Background and Objectives

Earth Day 2026 was commemorated at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh under the global theme “*Our Power, Our Planet.*” The celebrations were organized by the Department of Geology in collaboration with the Centre for Remote Sensing and GIS, spanning a week from April 22 to April 28, 2026, at the Shahpur Campus.

The primary objective of the programme was to foster environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices among students and the academic community. The initiative also aimed to encourage critical engagement with contemporary environmental challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, waste management, and ecological degradation. By integrating academic discourse with creative expression, the programme sought to cultivate a holistic understanding of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

2. Participation and Engagement

The week-long celebrations witnessed enthusiastic participation from postgraduate students of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. The programme also successfully extended its outreach to school-level participants, thereby strengthening the university’s engagement with the broader community.

The active involvement of students, research scholars, and faculty members contributed significantly to the academic vibrancy of the event. Participants displayed a high degree of motivation, intellectual curiosity, and social responsibility, reflecting a growing awareness of environmental issues and their implications.

3. Academic and Co-Curricular Competitions

A series of academic and creative competitions were organized to engage students in meaningful learning experiences. These included declamation, quiz, and poster-making competitions, each designed to encourage analytical thinking, communication skills, and creative expression.

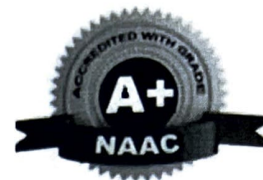
The declamation competition provided a platform for students to articulate their perspectives on pressing environmental issues. Participants demonstrated clarity of thought, depth of understanding, and persuasive communication while addressing themes such as climate change mitigation, sustainable development, and environmental ethics.

The quiz competition created a lively and intellectually stimulating environment, testing participants’ knowledge across various domains of environmental science, geology, and sustainability studies. The event fostered teamwork, quick thinking, and healthy competition among participants.

The poster-making competition stood out for its visual creativity and impactful messaging. Students presented innovative designs that effectively communicated the urgency of environmental conservation and the need for sustainable practices. Themes such as renewable energy, biodiversity conservation, and waste reduction were prominently featured.



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All competitions were evaluated by a panel of faculty members based on predefined criteria including originality, relevance, presentation, and conceptual clarity. Winners were recognized and awarded during the valedictory session on April 28, 2026.

4. Oath on Energy Conservation

A significant component of the celebrations was the oath-taking ceremony on energy conservation held on April 22, 2026. Faculty members and students collectively pledged to adopt responsible energy usage practices and contribute towards environmental sustainability.

This activity served as a reminder of the importance of individual responsibility in addressing global environmental challenges. It reinforced the idea that sustainable development requires conscious efforts at both personal and institutional levels.

5. Special Lecture: Technological Innovations in Waste Management

A major highlight of the programme was the special lecture delivered on April 23, 2026, by Yuvraj Singh Negi from the Department of Environmental Sciences.

Titled “*Smart Way of Plastic Recycling: Impact of Digitalization on Waste Management – A Sustainable Global Trend,*” the lecture provided an in-depth analysis of modern, technology-driven approaches to waste management.

Prof. Negi addressed the escalating issue of plastic pollution and emphasized the urgent need for adopting efficient recycling systems. He highlighted the transformative role of digital technologies in enhancing waste management practices. Through relevant examples, he discussed:

- Solar-powered trash compactors for optimizing waste collection
- Artificial Intelligence and robotics for automated waste segregation
- E-waste recycling kiosks as decentralized disposal solutions
- Mobile applications for public awareness and participation
- Real-time monitoring systems for efficient waste tracking

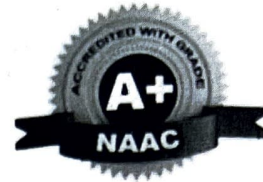
He further introduced the concepts of circular economy and sustainable consumption, emphasizing their importance in minimizing waste generation and promoting resource efficiency. The lecture effectively bridged theoretical knowledge with practical applications, making it highly relevant for students and researchers alike.

6. Interactive Discussion and Knowledge Exchange

The lecture was followed by an engaging interactive session that encouraged participants to reflect on practical solutions for waste management at the institutional level. Students, research scholars, and faculty members actively contributed ideas and suggestions.



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Key recommendations emerging from the discussion included:

- Implementation of structured waste segregation systems on campus
- Reduction of single-use plastics
- Promotion of reusable and eco-friendly alternatives
- Organization of regular awareness and outreach programmes
- Integration of smart technologies in campus waste management

The session underscored the importance of collective action and demonstrated how localized initiatives can contribute to broader environmental sustainability goals.

7. Valedictory Session and Final Day Activities

The final day of the celebrations was marked by high levels of participation and enthusiasm. Students and teachers from Delhi Public School Kangra, Rainbow International School Nagrota Bagwan, and Government Senior Secondary School Rajol actively participated in the programme. A major highlight was the exhibition of student models based on the theme “*Our Power, Our Planet.*” The models addressed critical environmental issues such as renewable energy, waste management, and climate change mitigation. They demonstrated innovation, scientific understanding, and practical applicability, and were evaluated by experts from the Departments of Geology and Environmental Science.

The valedictory session commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by the rendition of *Vande Mataram* and the Kul Geet, setting a dignified tone for the proceedings.

An address by A. K. Mahajan highlighted the increasing pressures on the Earth system due to anthropogenic activities and emphasized the need for sustainable practices and environmental responsibility.

The Chief Guest, Deepak Pant, delivered an insightful lecture on disaster preparedness with a focus on waste management systems. He discussed the challenges of waste generation during natural disasters such as earthquakes and emphasized the importance of pre-planned waste management strategies. He also highlighted innovative approaches for waste segregation, recycling, and sustainable disposal.

8. Prize Distribution and Closing Ceremony

The valedictory session included a prize distribution ceremony recognizing outstanding performances in student model presentations as well as competitions conducted earlier during the celebrations.

The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Kumar Batuk Joshi, Assistant Professor, Department of Geology, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, faculty members, participating schools, organizing team, and students.

The programme concluded with a group photograph capturing the spirit of collaboration, followed by a tree plantation activity symbolizing a shared commitment to environmental sustainability. A luncheon was



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organized thereafter, providing an opportunity for informal interaction and strengthening academic and social bonds.

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| <p>Dr. Kumar Batuk Joshi Convenor Assistant Professor, Department of Geology</p> | |
| <p>Dr. Alok Pandey Co-Convenor Assistant Professor, Centre for Remote Sensing and GIS</p> | |
| <p>Dr. Arun Kumar Co-Convenor Assistant Professor, Centre for Remote Sensing and GIS</p> | |