हिमाचल प्रदेश केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय
Central University of Himachal Pradesh
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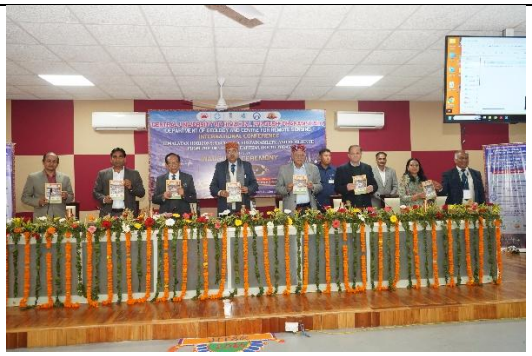
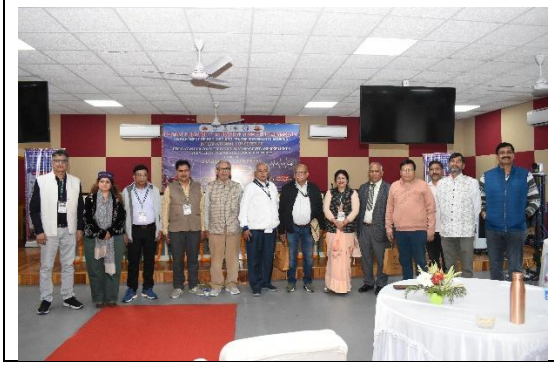
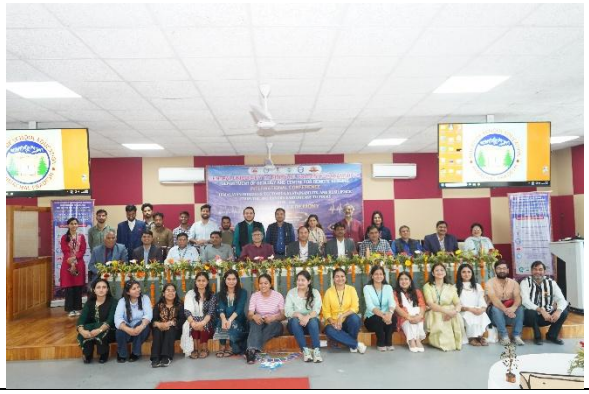
Event Report

Name of the Event	International conference titled *'Himalayan Horizons: Tectonics, Sustainability, and Resilience from the 1905 Kangra Earthquake to Today'*
Objective of the event	The conference aimed to: • Promote interdisciplinary research on Himalayan tectonics and disaster resilience • Examine lessons from the 1905 Kangra earthquake in present-day contexts • Bridge the gap between scientific research and policy implementation • Foster sustainable development approaches in fragile mountain ecosystems • Build capacity among students and young researcher
Date, Time and Venue	4-6 April 2026; Education Department seminar Hall, Dharamshala
Convener /Organising Secretary	Prof. A. K. Mahajan (Chairman and Convener) Dr. Kumar Batuk Joshi (Co-Convener) Dr. Alok Pandey (Co-convener) Dr. Ritambhara Upadhayay (Co-Convener) Dr. Arun Kumar (Co-Convener)
Organising Unit	Department of Geology and Centre for Remote Sensing and GIS
Participants	108 Abstracts with more than 200 attendees including delegates, University students and state government nominees
Outcome of the event	• Strengthened academic collaboration and networking • Enhanced student learning and research exposure • Increased awareness on disaster resilience strategies

	• Reinforced the importance of integrating science with policy and community action
Expenditure & Funding Agency if anyone otherwise CUHP	1. Central University of Himachal Pradesh 2. Ministry of earth Sciences 3. District Disaster Management Authority 4. National Centre for Earth Science Studies 5. Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology
Photos (atleast one geo-tag)	



Event Detail Report

The three-day international conference titled *"Himalayan Horizons: Tectonics, Sustainability, and Resilience from the 1905 Kangra Earthquake to Today"* was successfully organized from 4th to 6th April 2026 at the Department of Geology and the Centre for Remote Sensing and GIS, Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP), Dharamshala. The conference served as a significant academic platform bringing together eminent scientists, academicians,

policymakers, administrators, and students from across India to deliberate on critical issues related to tectonics, disaster resilience, and sustainable development in the Himalayan region.

Inaugural Session

The conference commenced with a ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and other dignitaries, symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge and a collective commitment to addressing disaster risks in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Bansal highlighted the importance of learning from past disasters, particularly the 1905 Kangra earthquake, and expressed concern over increasing anthropogenic pressures such as unregulated tourism in the Himalayan region. He strongly advocated for the implementation of early warning systems, the use of seismic microzonation maps in planning processes, and the integration of traditional knowledge systems with modern scientific approaches. He further emphasized the need to align academic and doctoral research with community-oriented disaster mitigation strategies.

Academic and Technical Deliberations

Over the three days, the conference featured a wide range of technical sessions addressing key themes such as tectonics, seismic hazards, climate change, hydrology, and sustainable development. Experts presented cutting-edge research findings, case studies, and practical insights into disaster mitigation and resilience strategies.

The deliberations highlighted challenges in earthquake prediction, the importance of structural safety and hazard zonation, and the growing risks associated with climate change. A strong emphasis was placed on interdisciplinary approaches and on translating scientific knowledge into actionable policy frameworks.

Student Engagement and Capacity Building

Student participation was a major highlight of the conference. Poster presentations, interactive sessions, and academic discussions provided a platform for young researchers to engage directly with experts. This initiative significantly contributed to experiential learning and capacity building, aligning with institutional quality benchmarks and the Vice Chancellor's vision of student-centric academic development.

Key Thematic Insights

The discussions throughout the conference reinforced several key insights, including the need to bridge the gap between science and policy, recognize youth as future leaders in disaster resilience, and strengthen community-level awareness. The importance of adopting sustainable development practices that respect ecological constraints was also strongly emphasized.

Recommendations

The conference culminated in several important recommendations aimed at strengthening disaster resilience and sustainable development in the Himalayan region. These include conducting regular mock drills in schools and institutions to build early awareness, disseminating seismic microzonation maps to local communities, and strengthening community-level disaster preparedness programs.

Further recommendations included enhancing science-policy integration to ensure research translates into actionable outcomes and promoting sustainable development practices that minimize environmental degradation. These recommendations closely align with the institutional vision of combining scientific research with community engagement and policy implementation.

Outcomes and Impact

The conference successfully facilitated meaningful scientific exchange and interdisciplinary dialogue. It strengthened academic collaborations, enhanced student learning experiences, and increased awareness of disaster resilience strategies. The event also reinforced the importance of integrating scientific research with policy frameworks and community participation.

Alignment with IQAC Quality Parameters

The conference aligns well with key IQAC quality dimensions, including curricular enrichment through the integration of contemporary issues, enhancement of teaching-learning processes via experiential engagement, promotion of interdisciplinary research and innovation, and extension activities focused on community awareness. It also reflects institutional values of sustainability, inclusivity, and social responsibility.

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Conclusion

The conference successfully revisited the lessons of the 1905 Kangra earthquake while providing a forward-looking roadmap for building a resilient and sustainable Himalayan future. It stands as a model of quality academic engagement, effectively integrating research, policy, and community perspectives under strong institutional leadership.

The event reflects the commitment of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh towards excellence in higher education, research, and societal outreach, thereby contributing meaningfully to national priorities on disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

Prof. A. K. Mahajan Chair and Convenor and Head, Department of Geology	
Dr. Kumar Batuk Joshi Co-Convenor Assistant Professor, Department of Geology	
Dr. Alok Pandey Co-Convenor Assistant Professor, Centre for Remote Sensing and GIS	
Dr. Arun Kumar Co-Convenor Assistant Professor, Centre for Remote Sensing and GIS	
Dr. Ritambhara Kumari Upadhayay Co-Convenor Assistant Professor, Department of Geology	