

Activity Report – 14

IGS Activity update from 1st February 2026 – 15th May 2026

Had the opportunity to participate in the National Conference on “Future Challenges for Sustainable Development in Geotechnical Engineering (FCSDGeo-2026)” as the Guest of Honour and attended the inaugural function held on 20 February 2026 at the Triguna Sen Auditorium, Jadavpur University. The conference was organized by the Indian Geotechnical Society Kolkata Chapter during 20–21 February 2026 in association with leading academic institutions including Jadavpur University, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology Shibpur, National Institute of Technology Durgapur, Aliah University, Meghnad Saha Institute of Technology, and Adamas University. The inaugural session witnessed enthusiastic participation from academicians, practicing engineers, researchers, and students. The conference featured eminent keynote speakers from India and abroad including Prof. Deepankar Choudhury (IIT Bombay), Prof. Siau Chen Chian, Darren (National University of Singapore), Prof. Rajib Sarkar (IIT Dhanbad), Mr. Somnath Nandan (Kalpataru Projects International Ltd.), and Mr. Manos Kumar De (Tata Consulting Engineers Limited), who delivered insightful addresses bridging academic research and industry practice in sustainable geotechnical engineering. I place on record my sincere appreciation to the Organizing Committee especially Er. Alok Roy, Chairman, J J Mandal, Abhijith Saha Co Chairman, Dr. Pritam Aitch, Convener, Dr. Supia Khatun, Er. Sudip Nath, Dr. Arghadeep Biswas, Dr. Subhadeep Metya, Dr. Obaidur Rahaman and Er.Chiranjib Sarkar for meticulously planning and successfully conducting the conference. I congratulate the Kolkata Chapter for organizing this impactful national conference and thank the entire team for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements.





Attended the inaugural day of GeoKeralam on 25 February 2026. GeoKeralam, jointly organized by the Indian Geotechnical Society Thiruvananthapuram Chapter, Indian Geotechnical Society Kochi Chapter, Indian Geotechnical Society Calicut Chapter, and Indian Geotechnical Society Palakkad Chapter in association with the Department of Civil Engineering, Marian Engineering College, was held on 25–26 February 2026 at Marian Engineering College. The inaugural function was graced by the esteemed Chief Guest Dr. Binu Francis IAS., whose presence added great value to the occasion. Kerala, with its unique geographical setting between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, presents significant geotechnical challenges ranging from landslides and seismic concerns in the hilly terrains to problematic soft marine clays along the coastal belt. In this context, GeoKeralam was thoughtfully conceived under the theme “Sustainable Geotechnical Solutions for Problematic Soils and Disaster Management.” The inaugural session witnessed enthusiastic participation from professionals, faculty members, researchers, and students. The technical sessions featured distinguished experts including Er. K. P. Purushothaman, former Chief Engineer of the Atal Tunnel Project, and Dr. M. Baba, who shared valuable insights into contemporary geotechnical challenges and engineering solutions. The second day of GeoKeralam featured expert lectures by Dr. K. Balan, Patron of the IGS Thiruvananthapuram Chapter; Dr. Vandana Sreedharan; Dr. Divya P. V.; and Dr. Jimmy Thomas. Their deliberations further enriched the technical depth and professional value of the programme. A notable feature of GeoKeralam was the active involvement of students through innovative programmes such as Geothon, GeoQuiz, panel discussions, sessions on Women in Geotechnics, and technical interactions. These initiatives not only strengthened technical knowledge but also inspired young minds to actively engage in addressing real-world geotechnical problems. Sincere appreciation is placed on record for the dedicated efforts of the IGS Kerala Chapters and the organizing team of Marian Engineering College for conceptualizing and successfully conducting this meaningful programme. Best wishes are extended to all organizers and participants for the successful conclusion of GeoKeralam with continued enthusiasm and professional excellence.





Attended the two-day workshop on “Geotechnical Solutions for Infrastructure Projects in Problematic Ground,” held on 22–23 March 2026 as part of the Centenary Celebrations of Andhra University. The workshop was conducted at the Department of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering, Andhra University and brought together experts, academicians, researchers, and practicing professionals to deliberate on practical and emerging geotechnical solutions for challenging ground conditions associated with infrastructure development projects. The technical sessions were highly engaging and informative, featuring in-depth discussions, case studies, and valuable knowledge sharing by eminent experts from the geotechnical engineering fraternity. The inaugural session was graced by Prof. V. S. Raju as the Guest of Honour and was presided over by Prof. G. P. Rajasekhar, adding great significance and academic value to the event. As part of the programme, the Indian Geotechnical Society Visakhapatnam Chapter also hosted the 246th NEC Meeting on 22 March 2026. Another major highlight of the event was the release of the book “Geo Sutra,” authored by Prof. M. R. Madhav, focusing on the practical aspects of geotechnical engineering. The book release ceremony held on 23 March 2026 added further importance to the workshop proceedings. Appreciation is placed on record for the dedicated efforts of Prof. C. N. V. Satyanarayana Reddy and the Indian Geotechnical Society Visakhapatnam Chapter for organizing such a well-structured and impactful event. Special appreciation is also extended to the Coordinators, Prof. P. V. V. Satyanarayana and Prof. K. Rajagopal, along with the entire organizing committee, for their meticulous planning, excellent arrangements for the NEC Meeting, and the warm hospitality extended throughout the programme.





The 18th Charter Day Celebration of the Indian Geotechnical Society Kochi Chapter was held on 24 April 2026 at IMA House Kochi. The event marked an important milestone in the journey of the Kochi Chapter and was attended by members of the geotechnical engineering fraternity, academicians, professionals, and distinguished guests. The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of G. Priyanka as the Chief Guest and Cherian Varkey as the Guest of Honour. The celebration was further enriched by the participation of

eminent dignitaries including Dr. Mandip Subedi, Hon. Secretary, Association of Geotechnical Societies of South Asia & Former President of the Nepal Geotechnical Society, and Dr. A. P. Singh, Hon. Secretary, IGS. Adding international significance to the programme, recorded messages were shared by Dr. Marc Ballouz, Prof. Keh-Jian Shou, and Prof. M. R. Madhav, conveying their greetings and best wishes to the Kochi Chapter on the occasion of its Charter Day celebrations and Dr. Anil Joseph for winning the Election to Vice President Asia - ISSMGE. The event also provided a memorable opportunity for recognition and fellowship within the geotechnical community. Deep gratitude and appreciation are expressed to the Indian Geotechnical Society Kochi Chapter and the entire IGS fraternity for the recognition accorded on this special occasion in connection with the election as Vice President (Asia) of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering for the term 2026–2030. Sincere thanks are conveyed to the Kochi Chapter for their thoughtful gesture, warm hospitality, and continued support and encouragement.







On 2 May 2026, had the opportunity to meet Dr. Rakesh Kumar and Er. Pitambar Datt of the Indian Geotechnical Society Bhopal Chapter. The meeting provided a valuable platform for fruitful and insightful discussions on strengthening the activities of the chapter and expanding student engagement in the field of geotechnical engineering. During the interaction, detailed deliberations were held on the proposal for initiating a new student chapter at National Institute of Technology Bhopal, which is expected to inspire and connect young engineering students with the professional geotechnical community. Discussions also focused on revitalizing the activities of the Indian Geotechnical Society Bhopal Chapter through renewed enthusiasm, stronger member participation, and impactful technical initiatives in the coming months. Sincere appreciation is extended to Dr. Rakesh Kumar and Er. Pitambar Datt for their valuable time, warm interaction, and constructive discussions. Best wishes are conveyed to the Indian Geotechnical Society Bhopal Chapter for continued growth and success in all its future endeavours.



The 57th Local Chapter of the Indian Geotechnical Society, the IGS Rourkela Chapter was inaugurated on 7th May 2026 at National Institute of Technology Rourkela, Odisha. Heartiest congratulations to the dynamic team led by Dr. Rabi Narayan Behra, along with Hon. Secretary Dr. Soukat Das, Dr. Aditya Kumar Das, Dr. C.R. Patra, and the entire EC team for this remarkable milestone. A special note of gratitude to Chief Guest Prof. Pradeep Sarkar and Dr. A.P. Singh for enriching the inaugural ceremony with their inspiring presence and insightful addresses. Wishing the newly inaugurated IGS Rourkela Chapter a vibrant and impactful journey ahead, fostering innovation, collaboration and excellence in geotechnical engineering.





Had the opportunity to attend the 8th Dr. Victor de Mello Goa Lecture and Dr. Victor de Mello Centenary Symposium organized by the Indian Geotechnical Society Goa Chapter in association with the Brazilian Geotechnical Society, held on 14 May 2026 at Goa Engineering College. The programme brought together eminent geotechnical experts, academicians, researchers, and practicing engineers from India and abroad for technical deliberations on contemporary geotechnical challenges and sustainable engineering solutions. The inaugural session commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp and floral tribute to Dr. Victor de Mello, followed by inspiring addresses by Prof. T. G. Sitharam and Prof. M. R. Madhav. The prestigious 8th Dr. Victor de Mello Goa Centenary Lecture was delivered by Prof. T. G. Sitharam on the topic “Chenab Bridge – The Arch of Ambience: Advanced Geotechnical Strategies and Sustainable Foundation Design.” Prof. M. R. Madhav also delivered an insightful lecture on “The Third Alternative – Geosynthetic Reinforced Foundation Beds.” The afternoon technical sessions featured expert presentations on geotechnical solutions for infrastructure projects, ground improvement in soft soils, geotechnical investigations in tailings storage facilities, blasting-induced settlements in urban tunneling, and experiences in the design and execution of rockfill dams. Eminent speakers from India and Brazil shared valuable case studies, research findings, and international experiences, making the symposium highly enriching and technically rewarding. The ISSMGE Technical Committee 107 Symposium on Landslides in Tropical Soils, held on 15 May 2026, focused on important themes including landslides, slope stability, lateritic soils, early warning systems, numerical modelling of rainfall-induced landslides, and challenges faced in tropical regions. The symposium provided an excellent platform for exchange of knowledge and technical expertise on critical geotechnical issues relevant to tropical environments. Best wishes are conveyed for the successful conduct of the symposium, and congratulations are extended to the organizers for curating an outstanding technical programme. Sincere appreciation is placed on record for the dedicated efforts of Prof. Purnanand Savoikar, Er. Umesh Balwant Kulkarni, the organizing committee members, and the office bearers of the Indian Geotechnical Society Goa Chapter for making the event a grand success.







