

## Activity Report – 15

### IGS Activity update from 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026

Had opportunity to attend the joint webinar series on Regional Collaboration for Geotechnical Excellence organized by Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Committee (GEO-SOE) and Nepal Geotechnical Society on 31st May 2026. It was a privilege to offer short remarks during this valuable cross-border session between UAE and Nepal Geotechnical experts.



Had opportunity to attend SATVA 2026 – Symposium on Advanced Technologies and Visionary Approaches for Sustainability, organized by the Indian Roads and Street Management (IRSM), IGS Palakkad Chapter and IEI Palakkad Chapter in association with IIT Palakkad, on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at IIT Palakkad. The symposium was conducted under the theme “Pavement Sustainability Frontiers: From Materials to Maintenance,” bringing together academicians, researchers, industry experts, and professional bodies to deliberate on innovative and sustainable approaches in infrastructure development. I had the privilege of representing the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS) during the inaugural session and delivering an address on behalf of the Society. The event highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration among academic institutions, industry stakeholders, and professional organizations in advancing sustainable engineering practices. The inaugural session featured addresses by distinguished dignitaries, including Prof. Seshadri Sekhar, Director, IIT Palakkad, Mr. G. Parasuraman, Managing Director, IRSM, Dr. Arvind Ajoy, Dean – ICSR, IIT Palakkad, Er. S. Jayakrishnan, Chairman, IEI Palghat Local Centre, Prof. B.V.S Viswanatham, IIT Bomaby and other eminent personalities from academia and industry. An important milestone of the event was the exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IRSM and IIT Palakkad, aimed at strengthening industry–academia partnerships. SATVA 2026 served as an excellent platform for meaningful discussions on emerging technologies, sustainable materials, maintenance strategies, and future-ready solutions for the transportation sector. Such initiatives reinforce our collective responsibility to develop resilient and environmentally conscious infrastructure for the benefit of society.





Had opportunity to attend the online lecture organized by ISSMGE Technical Committee 301 – Historic Sites as the Guest of Honour on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 in zoom platform. The third lecture in the International Lecture Series on “Conservation of Heritage Sites” featured Prof. Claudio Margottini, UNESCO Chair, University of Florence, Italy, and President of IAEG Italy, who delivered an insightful

presentation on “Engineering Geology at the Frontline of World Heritage Protection”. The lecture highlighted the vital role of engineering geology and geotechnical engineering in preserving and protecting culturally and historically significant heritage sites across the world.

Attended the ISSMGE Council Meeting held at the Austria Center, Vienna, Austria, on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026. During the meeting, I had the honour of officially assuming office as the ISSMGE Vice President for Asia for the 2026–2030 term, marking the commencement of tenure in this prestigious international leadership role.



During the 21<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) held in Vienna, Austria, the ISSMGE Asian Committee honoured Prof. Keh Jian Shou and Dr. Marc Ballouz in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the growth and advancement of ISSMGE over the past four years. Prof. Keh Jian Shou was recognised for his exceptional leadership and dedicated service in strengthening ISSMGE activities across the Asian region, while Dr. Marc Ballouz was honoured for his remarkable contributions to the development and global outreach of ISSMGE. Their commitment, vision, and tireless efforts have significantly enhanced international collaboration and the geotechnical engineering community worldwide.

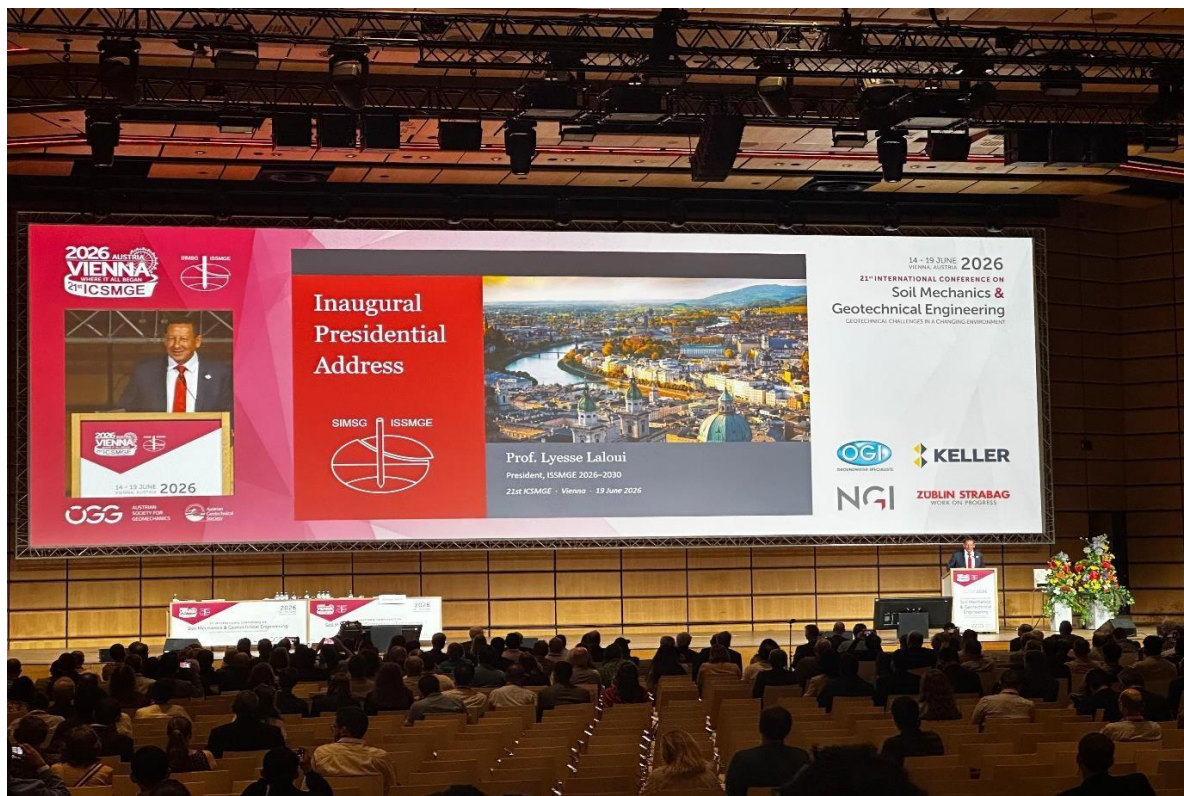
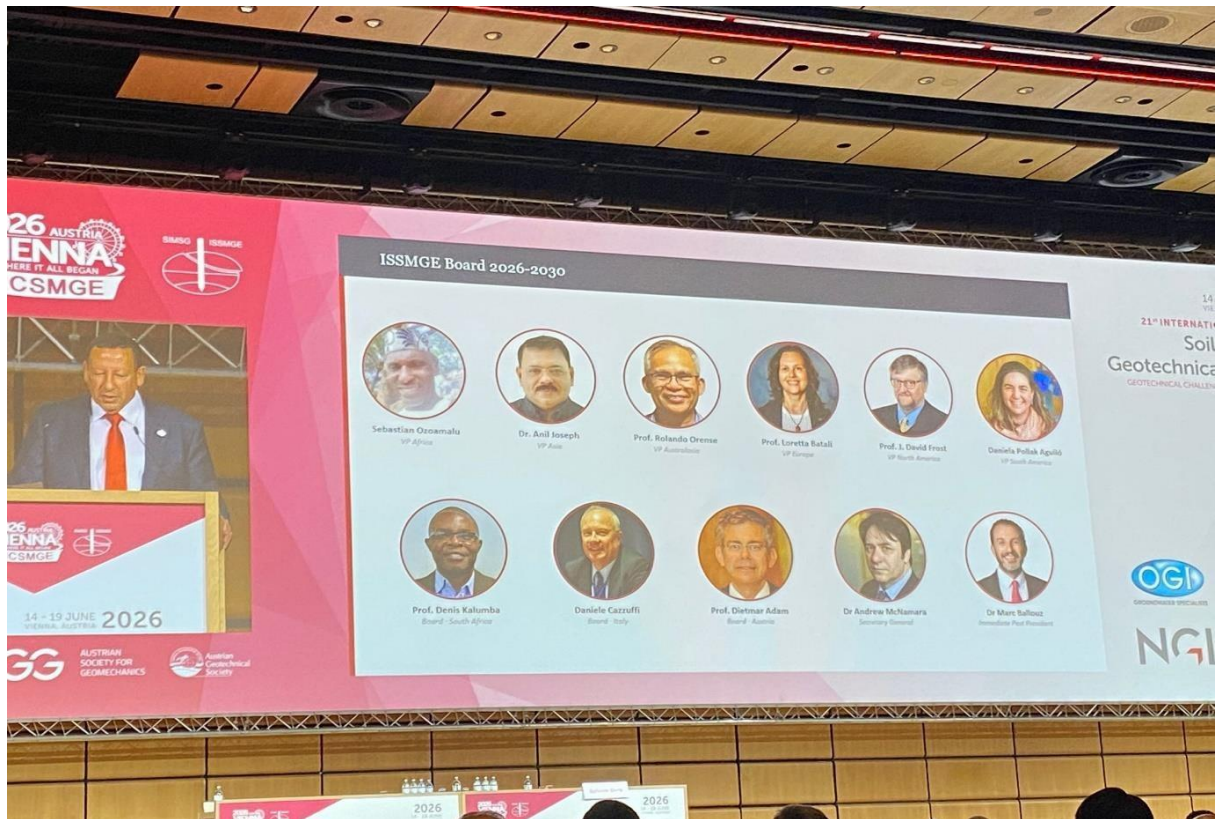


The Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS) delegation had the privilege of honouring Prof. Lyesse Laloui, the incoming President of ISSMGE, during the 21<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE). Prof. Laloui delivered his Presidential Address during the Closing Ceremony, marking the commencement of his tenure as President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

(ISSMGE). The occasion also witnessed the formal transition of leadership to the newly elected ISSMGE Board for the forthcoming term. A significant highlight of the ceremony was the official handover of the ICSMGE hosting responsibilities to the organizers of the next conference. The 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) will be held in Shanghai, China, from 25-30th November 2029, for continuing the tradition of bringing together geotechnical professionals, researchers, and industry leaders from around the world. Also happy to inform that Prof Jean Louis Briaud, Past President, ISSMGE delivered the prestigious Terzaghi Oration in Vienna. The IGS delegation extends its warm congratulations and best wishes to Prof. Lyesse Laloui and the newly elected ISSMGE Board for a successful and impactful term of leadership.







The purchase formalities of new office space for IGS were successfully completed on 22nd June 2026 and the keys to our new office premises at Office No. 424, Prime Towers, Okhla Phase I, New Delhi was formally handed over. This marks another significant milestone in the growth and evolution of the

Indian Geotechnical Society. While IGS has been operating from its existing office premises, the rapid expansion of our activities, responsibilities, and administrative requirements necessitated the acquisition of a larger and more suitable office space. The new premises will provide enhanced facilities and greater operational efficiency, enabling us to better serve our members and support the Society's future initiatives. This achievement is the result of the collective vision, commitment, and dedicated efforts of many individuals. I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation to Dr. A.P Singh, Honorary Secretary & Convener, Infrastructure Development Committee, Er. Ravi Kiran Vaidya, Convener Finance Committee, Dr. Abhay Gupta and Shri. Sanjay Arora, Executive Secretary for their sincere efforts, meticulous planning and dedication for this achievement. Also, would like to thank all members of the Infrastructure Development Committee, Finance Committee and the National Executive Committee (NEC) for their invaluable guidance, careful planning, and unwavering support throughout this process. Their efforts have been instrumental in transforming this long-envisioned objective into reality. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire IGS fraternity. The continued trust, encouragement, and support of our members have played a vital role in enabling the Society to achieve this important milestone.





Had opportunity to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Deep Foundations and Underground Infrastructure MENA Conference (DFUI 2026) on the invitation of the ISSMGE Member Society, GEO-SOE, UAE, held on 23–24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 in Le Méridien Dubai Hotel & Conference Centre, Dubai, UAE. This conference marked my first international assignment after assuming charge as Vice President (Asia), ISSMGE (2026–2030). Building on the success of its previous editions, DFUI 2026 brought together leading regional and international experts to discuss the latest advancements and challenges in deep foundations, underground infrastructure, and ground engineering. It was a privilege to represent the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS) and the Asian region at this prestigious international event. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to interact with global

experts, strengthen professional collaborations, and explore emerging trends that will contribute to the advancement of geotechnical engineering practice. I look forward to leveraging these international engagements to further strengthen IGS's global presence and foster greater technical collaboration across Asian Geotechnical Society's and beyond.



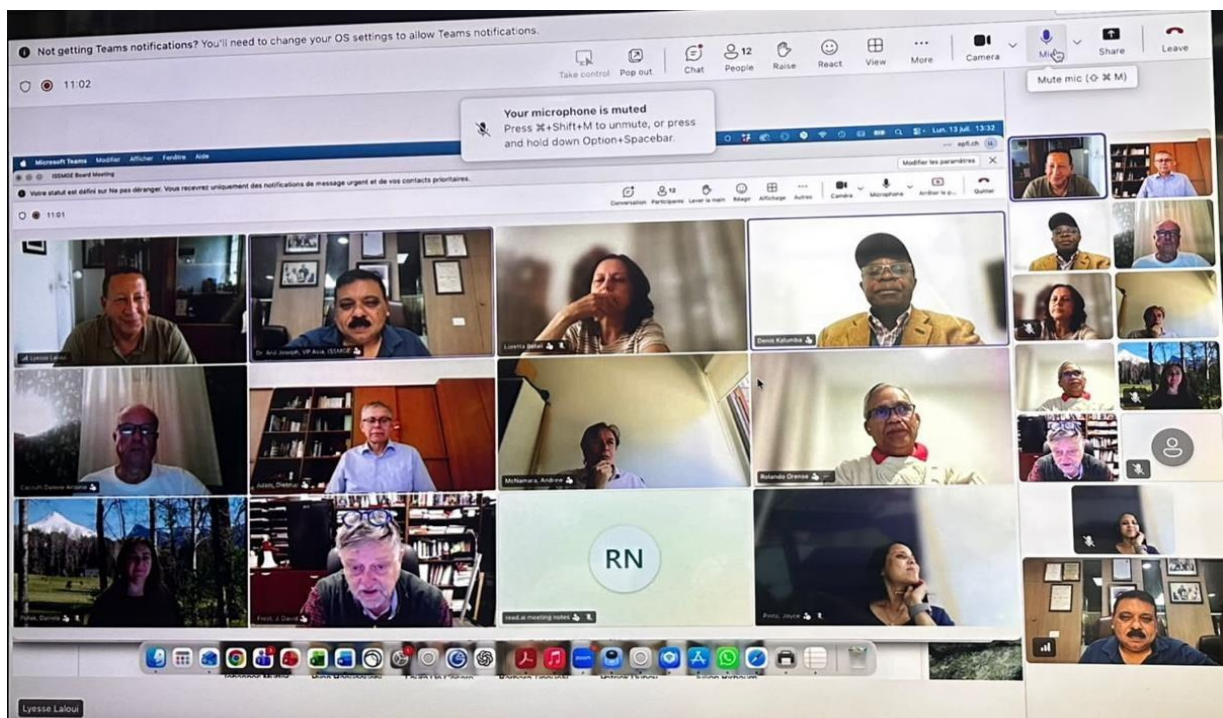


Attended the celebration of achievement of ISSMGE outstanding member society award 2026 organized by Nepal Geotechnical Society on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026 in Zoom platform.





Attended the online board meeting of ISSMGE on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026.



Had the privilege of attending the International Conference on Tenets for Geosystem Surety (TGS 2026), organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, IISc Bengaluru, on 17–18 July 2026 at the J. N. Tata Auditorium, IISc. The conference was organized to honour the exemplary career and superannuation of Prof. T. G. Sitharam, whose remarkable contributions to geotechnical engineering, academia and administration have inspired generations

of engineers and researchers. The conference served as an excellent platform for knowledge sharing, technical deliberations and professional networking with leading academicians and geotechnical experts. I sincerely appreciate the Organising Committee for meticulously planning this memorable event. I wish all the very best for Prof. T. G. Sitharam in his next innings of life. Special appreciation to Prof. Anbazhagan, Convener, for his exemplary coordination, and to Prof. S. K. Prasad, Prof H N Ramesh, Prof. Raghuveer Rao, Dr. C. R. Parthasarathy and the entire organising team for their tireless efforts in making TGS 2026 a grand success and a fitting tribute to the illustrious career of Prof. T. G. Sitharam.





The 247<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting of the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS) was held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at the Conference Hall, Lavender Premier, Bengaluru. Thank you, Prof. Madhavi Latha, Prof. Raghuveer, Prof. H.N Ramesh Sir, Prof. S.K Prasad Sir, Dr. C.R Parthasarathy, Dr. Asha M Nair and the entire team members for the meticulous planning, excellent arrangements and wonderful hospitality for our EC Meeting. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the Organizing Committee members for the thoughtful surprise of arranging a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate the success in election for Vice President–Asia, ISSMGE. Thank you once again to the IGS Bengaluru Chapter and all my esteemed Executive Committee colleagues for your unwavering support, camaraderie, and commitment to strengthening IGS. I look forward to working together as we continue to take our Society to greater heights.



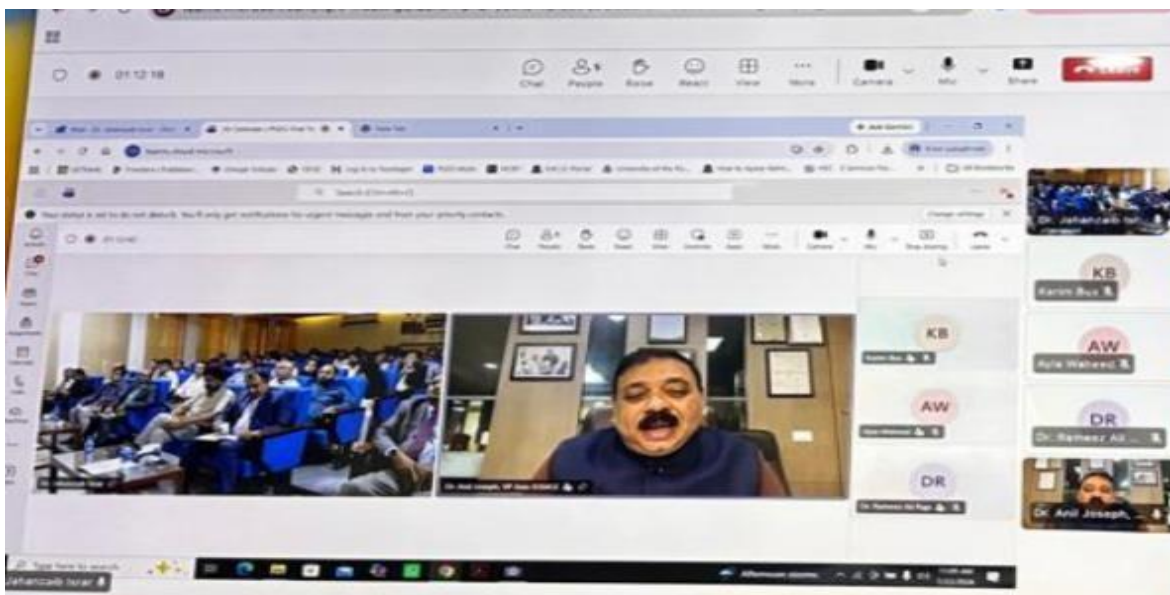


Visited Indore on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026 to review the preparations for the 12<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Field Monitoring in Geomechanics (ISFMG 2026), scheduled to be held from 6–10 August 2026. During the visit, detailed discussions were held with the Organising Committee on the technical programme, logistics, international participation, and overall event management. After careful deliberations, it was decided to shift the symposium venue from IIT Indore to Radisson Blu Hotel, Indore, in order to provide enhanced conference facilities and a more convenient experience for the delegates. I am pleased to note that the IGS Indore Chapter and the Organising Committee have made excellent progress, and the preparations are in full swing. I sincerely appreciate the dedication, hard work, and commitment of the entire organising team in ensuring





Had the privilege of attending the Pakistan Geotechnical Engineering Society (PGES) Final Year Design Project Presentation 2026, held virtually via Zoom on 22 July 2026. Representing the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS) and ISSMGE, addressed the gathering and delivered the felicitation, congratulating the organizers, faculty members, and participating students for their outstanding efforts and innovative project presentations. The event provided an excellent platform for showcasing the talent and technical capabilities of future geotechnical engineers while strengthening academic and professional ties within the international geotechnical community.



Attended the AGSSA–ICGE Colombo 2026 coordination meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2026 via the Zoom platform. Representatives from all five AGSSA member societies participated in the meeting. Discussions focused on strengthening the participation of AGSSA member societies in ICGE Colombo 2026 and finalizing the special discounted registration rates to be offered to delegates from AGSSA member nations.



The inaugural ceremony of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Field Monitoring in Geomechanics (ISFMG 2026) was successfully held on 6 August 2026 at Terzaghi Hall, Radisson Blu Hotel, Indore. Organised under the aegis of ISSMGE TC220 in association with the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS), and hosted by IIT Indore and the IGS Indore Chapter, the symposium has brought together geotechnical professionals, researchers, and industry experts from around the world. The symposium was inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri Tulsi Ram Silawat, Minister for Water Resources, Government of Madhya Pradesh. The inaugural session featured welcome remarks by Prof. Neelima Satyam and addresses by Dr. Anil Joseph, President, IGS & Vice President (Asia), ISSMGE, Dr. Marwan Alzaylaie, Dr. Andrew Ridley, Dr. Paul Burton and Dr A P Singh highlighting the importance of global collaboration in advancing field monitoring in geotechnical engineering. The ceremony concluded with the inauguration of the Technical Exhibition, showcasing the latest geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring technologies. Congratulations to the Organising Committee, IIT Indore, IGS Indore Chapter, led by Prof Neelima Satyam and all those who contributed to the successful conduct of ISFMG 2026.



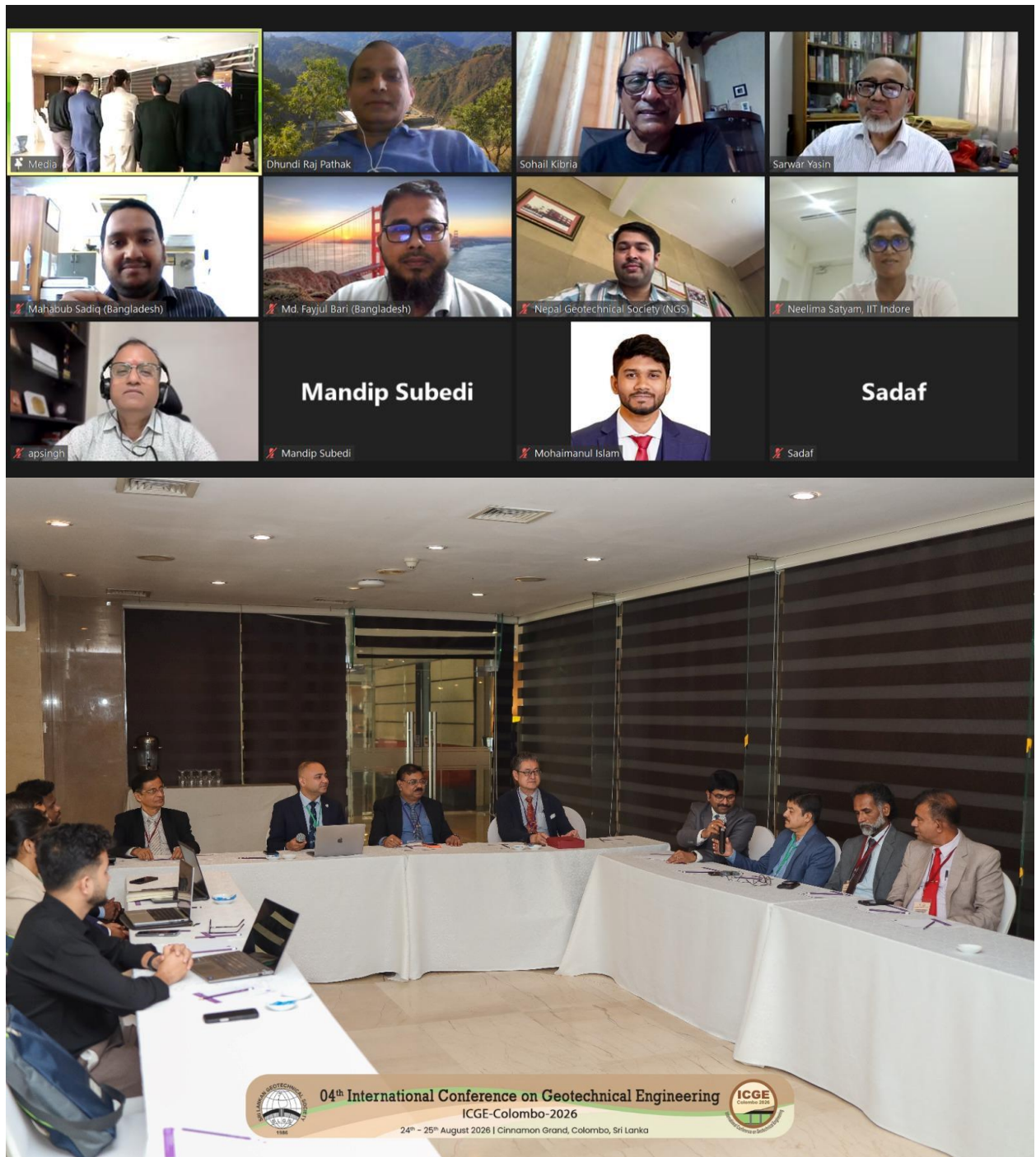


Had the privilege of attending the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering (ICGE-Colombo 2026), held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 24–25 August 2026. Organised by the Sri Lankan Geotechnical Society (SLGS) under the inspiring theme “Resilient Geotechnics for a Sustainable Future,” the conference was particularly special as it marked the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SLGS. It was heartening to see more than 20 delegates from India actively participating in this important regional gathering. Representing India, I had the honour of delivering a

Keynote Lecture, while Er. Ravi Kiran Vaidya and Prof. Murali Krishna enriched the technical programme with their Thematic Lectures. Beyond the technical exchange, the conference served as a powerful platform for strengthening professional bonds and fostering greater collaboration across South Asia. Adding further significance to the gathering, the 7th Council Meeting of the Association of Geotechnical Societies of South Asia (AGSSA) was held on 25 August in hybrid mode, bringing together regional leaders to deliberate on strengthening cooperation, expanding opportunities for young professionals and academics, and building a stronger and more connected geotechnical community across South Asia. My sincere appreciation and congratulations to Er. Srilal Sahabandu, President, SLGS, and the entire organising committee of ICGE-Colombo 2026 for delivering an outstanding conference with exceptional professionalism, warm hospitality and meticulous arrangements. ICGE-Colombo 2026 was truly a celebration of geotechnical excellence, regional friendship and a shared commitment to building a more resilient and sustainable future.







Attend the 4<sup>th</sup> FOMLIG Conference, held at Dongguk University, Seoul, Korea, from 26–28 August 2026. It was a wonderful gathering of geotechnical professionals, researchers and practitioners, providing an excellent platform for technical exchange and strengthening international collaboration. I am happy to inform you that, on 28 August 2026, we also successfully conducted the Second India–Japan–Korea Trilateral Workshop at Dongguk University, Seoul, Korea. The workshop brought together experts from the three countries to share knowledge, experiences and perspectives on contemporary challenges in geotechnical engineering. I sincerely thank all the participants and colleagues from India especially Er. Ravi Kiran Vaidya, Prof. Neelima Satyam, Prof. Murali Krishna, Prof. Jay Shukla and Smt. Kumari Shraddha for their active participation

and valuable contributions, which made the workshop meaningful and successful. The India–Japan–Korea trilateral initiative is a significant step towards building stronger professional and academic cooperation among the geotechnical communities of the three countries. I am confident that this collaboration will continue to create opportunities for knowledge sharing, joint research, young professional engagement and technological advancement. I am also pleased to share that the Third India–Japan–Korea Trilateral Workshop will be held in India in 2028. We look forward to welcoming our colleagues and friends from Japan and Korea to India and taking this important partnership to the next level.



