

# Celebration of Himalaya Day

## A Brainstorming Session on “Conservation of Himalayan Region”

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<b>Date and Day:</b>	<b>September 09, 2025, Tuesday</b>
<b>Title of the Session:</b>	<b>Celebration of Himalaya Day: A Brainstorming Session on “Conservation of Himalayan Region”</b>
<b>Session chair:</b>	<b>Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, UOU and Dignitaries</b>
<b>Chief Guest:</b>	<b>Dr. Ashutosh Singh</b>
<b>Timing:</b>	<b>11:00 am to 02:00 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani</b>
<b>Organized by</b>	<b>Jointly organised by the Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani and Devbhoomi Vigyan Samiti Uttarakhand</b>
<b>Name of the Rapporteurs:</b>	<b>Dr. Kirtika Padalia, Dr. Pooja Juyal, Dr. Preeti Pant and Dr. Garima Punetha</b>

### Report of the Session

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The inaugural session of the **Celebration of Himalaya Day: A Brainstorming Session on “Conservation of Himalayan Region”** was started on the **September 09, 2025 at 11 am onwards** at Uttarakhand Open University campus **jointly organised by the Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani and Devbhoomi Vigyan Samiti Uttarakhand** with great enthusiasm and academic spirit. The event commenced with a welcome address by the organizing committee members (Dr. Beena Tiwari and Dr. Meenakshi Rana, UOU) by given an introductory session highlighting the importance of the great Himalaya.

The ceremonial **Deep Prajwalan** was conducted by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor (acting), Prof. Girija Pande, Chief Guest, Dr. Ashutosh Singh, convenor Prof. P.D. Pant, distinguished Key speakers Dr. Narendra Singh and Dr. Gautam Rawat marking the formal commencement of the session followed by **University’s Kulgeet**, which was sung with pride, evoking a sense of unity and purpose among the participants.

The convenor, **Prof. P.D. Pant**, Director Academics, UOU, Haldwani, in his welcome address, greet all the distinguished guest and dignitaries. He highlighted and emphasized the fragile state of the Himalayan ecosystem, elaborated how glacial retreat, deforestation, unregulated tourism, and climate change have intensified the risks of floods, landslides, and biodiversity loss.

**Prof. Navin Chandra Lohani, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, UOU, Haldwani** joined the session through the virtual mode. He raises awareness about environmental issues affecting

the Himalayan region and to collectively explore feasible conservation strategies that align with both ecological balance and socio-economic development.

The Co-convenor, **Prof. Kamal Deolal**, Co-ordinator, Department of Physics, UOU, Haldwani, presented a comprehensive overview of the event, outlining its objectives, schedule, and expected outcomes. He emphasized the importance of Himalaya. He further state that discuss pressing ecological challenges and sustainable solutions for the Himalayan ecosystem. The event underscored the significance of the Himalayas as a vital ecological, cultural, and spiritual heritage that demands immediate conservation efforts.

**Dr. Asutosh Singh**, Co-ordinator, Devbhoomi Vigyan Samiti emphasised the history and the significance of the Himalaya. He states that the Himalaya is also a source of major rivers like the Ganga and Brahmaputra, supporting millions of people. Additionally, it is rich in biodiversity and holds cultural, spiritual, and ecological importance for many communities. Its preservation is crucial for sustaining both the environment and livelihoods. He also emphasised that the Morden tool, ecotourism, waste management and sustainable development is also needed to conserve the Himalaya.

The technical session started from 11.45 am onwards. **Dr. Narendra Singh, Scientist-F, Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital (Uttarakhand)** was formally introduced by **Dr. Prabha Dhondiyal, UOU**. Dr. Singh delivered a lecture on “The Himalaya and its challenges: A climatic perspective”. In his lecture he proclaimed that the Himalaya is the youngest and highest mountain range in the world, playing a vital role in shaping South Asia’s climate. It acts as a barrier to cold winds from Central Asia and channels the monsoon, making it an important water source for millions. However, changing climatic patterns are significantly affecting this fragile ecosystem. Glaciers in the Himalaya are retreating rapidly due to rising temperatures, threatening rivers. Increased frequency of extreme weather events, such as cloudbursts and landslides, has made the region more vulnerable. Melting permafrost is destabilizing mountain slopes, leading to risks of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). Unpredictable snowfall patterns are impacting agriculture and tourism, which are dependent on seasonal stability. Shifting ecosystems and biodiversity loss are also major concerns as habitats change with warming. Large population pressure, combined with climate stress, increases the risk of water scarcity and livelihood challenges. The Himalaya thus stands at a critical juncture, where sustainable adaptation strategies are needed to combat its climate-related challenges. Moreover, unplanned development, deforestation, and over-extraction of resources compound these climatic threats.

Addressing these challenges requires integrated approaches involving climate adaptation strategies, sustainable resource management, and cross-border cooperation. Protecting the Himalaya is essential not only for the region’s ecological balance but also for the broader climate stability of South Asia.

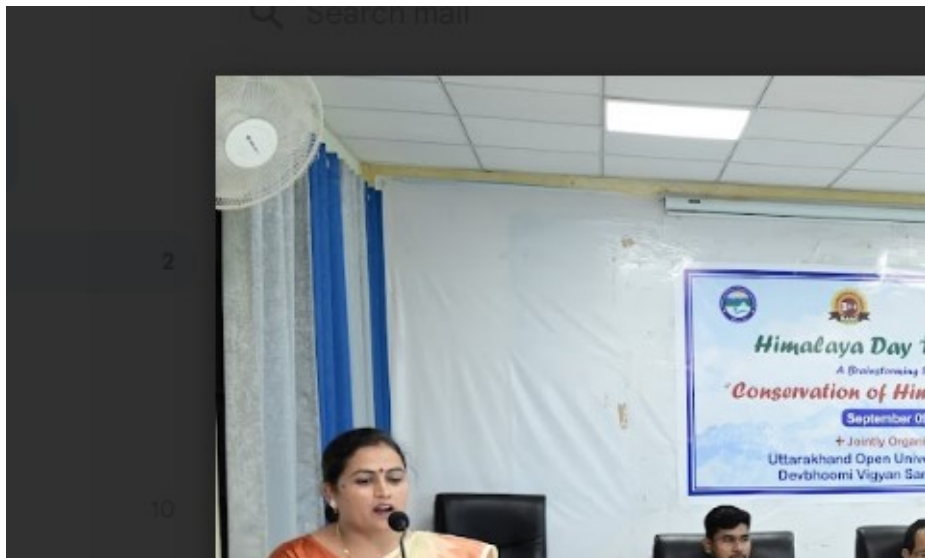
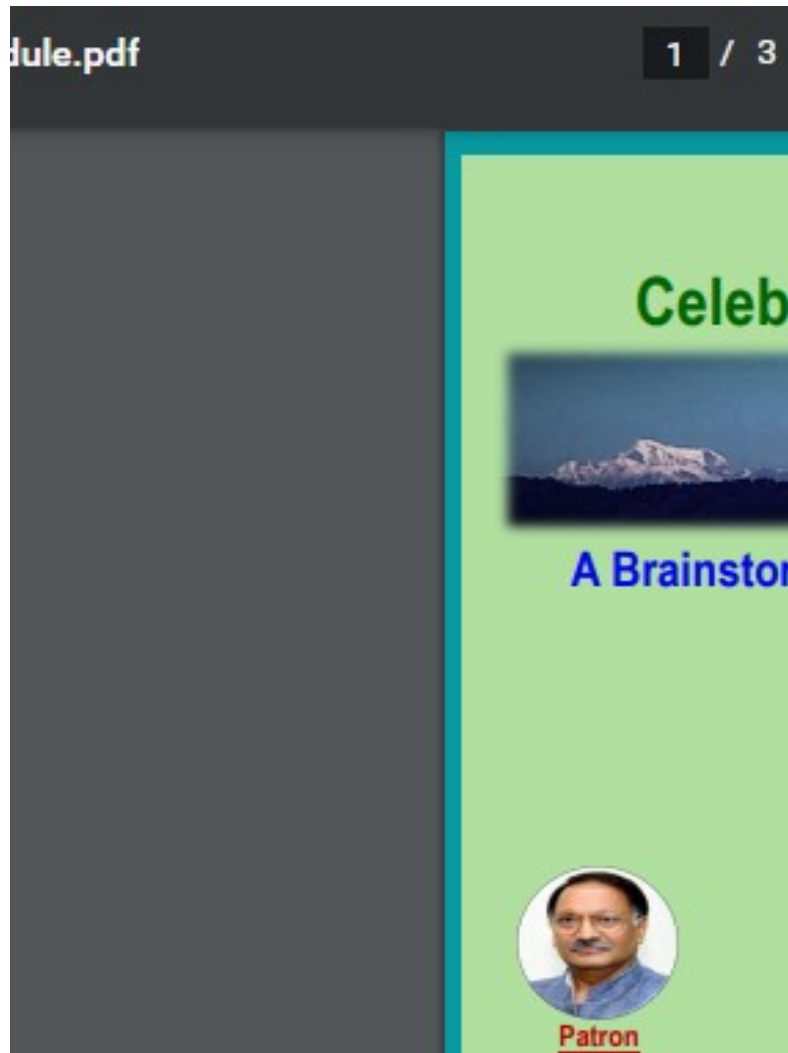
The second technical session was conducted by the **Dr. Gautam Rawat, Scientist- E, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun** which is formally introduced by **Dr. Preeti**

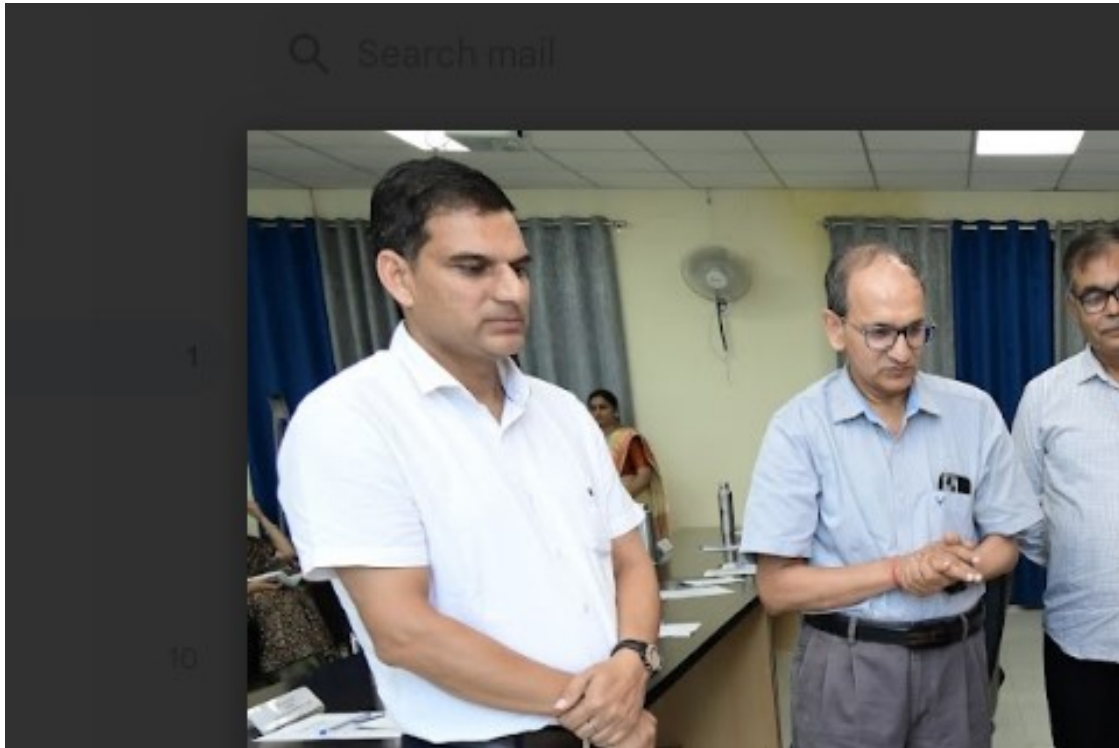
**Pant, UOU.** Dr. Rawat delivered his lecture on “Impact of development in Himalayas”. In his lecture he emphasized that development in the Himalayas has had profound impacts, offering both opportunities and challenges for the region’s ecology and communities. Rapid infrastructure projects like roads, dams, and hydropower stations have increased economic connectivity and created new livelihood options but also worsened the region’s ecological fragility. Large-scale deforestation for construction and urbanization has led to soil erosion, slope instability, and frequent landslides. Hydroelectric projects, while providing energy, often disrupt river ecosystems and displace local populations. Unregulated tourism and pilgrimage add strain on resources and generate waste, further disturbing natural habitats. Development has also fragmented wildlife habitats, threatening biodiversity including endangered species. The use of reinforced concrete in place of traditional building materials has created heat islands, contributing to local warming. These changes in land use and increased construction have heightened risks of floods, flash floods, and even earthquakes, given the region’s young, tectonically active geology. Water resources are becoming unpredictable due to glacial retreat accelerated by both climate change and development activities. While new roads have improved accessibility for remote communities, the benefits often come at the cost of long-term environmental sustainability and loss of traditional cultural practices. Further they give the solution to overcome these problem incorporating sustainable planning and strict environmental safeguards are urgently needed to balance growth with the unique vulnerability of the Himalayan ecosystem. The session concluded with a collective resolution to work towards actionable steps for the conservation of the Himalayan region. The need for cooperation between government bodies, NGOs, researchers, and local communities was underscored as essential for effective conservation.

Both the sessions were highly appreciated by all participants and provided a clear direction that Himalaya wants urgent need of restoration and sustainable uses to exacts benefits from it. Almost more than 70 participants are join the session offline mode and more than 60 participants are join through the online mode.

**Prof. Girija Pande, Director CIQA, UOU, Haldwani,** gave the presidential address and highlighted the ecological, cultural, and spiritual significance of the Himalayan region. Emphasis was laid on collective responsibility to protect fragile mountain ecosystems, preserve biodiversity, and ensure sustainable development for future generations.

The event ended with a **vote of thanks** delivered by **Dr. Khemraj Bhatt, registrar, UOU, Haldwani,** acknowledging the speakers, participants, and organizers for their valuable contributions. The session was described as a crucial platform for knowledge exchange and collective action toward protecting the Himalayas.



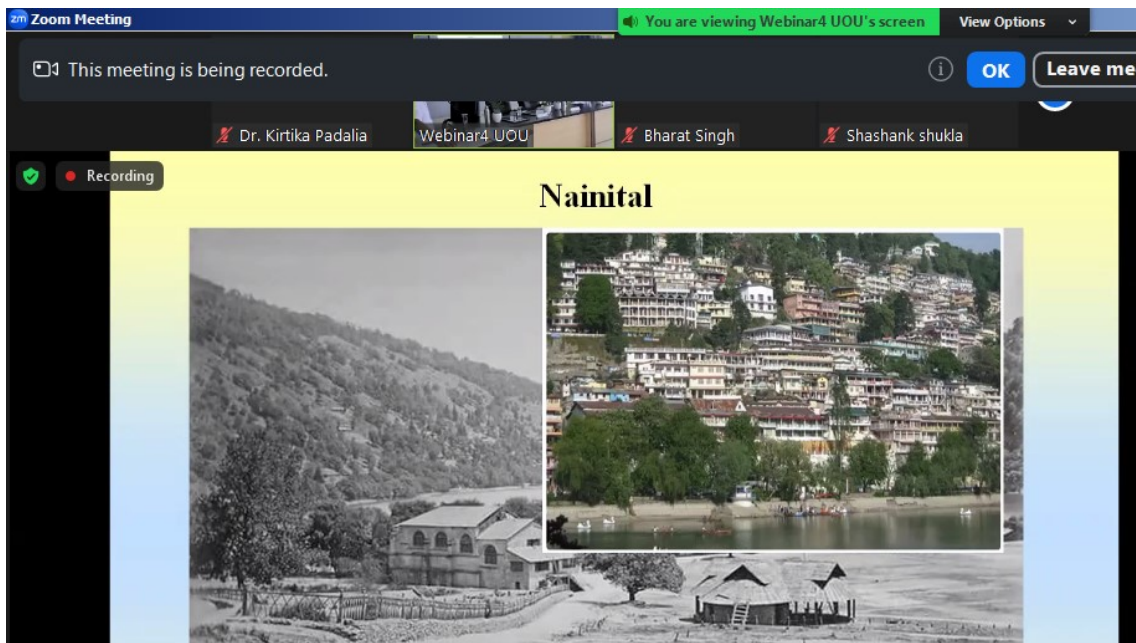
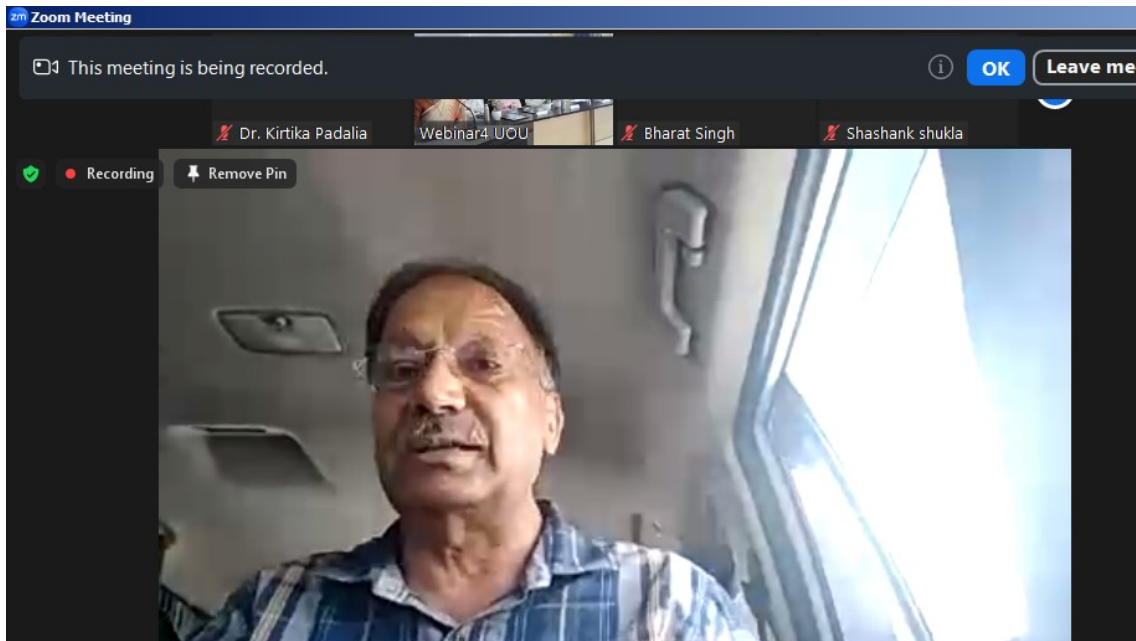


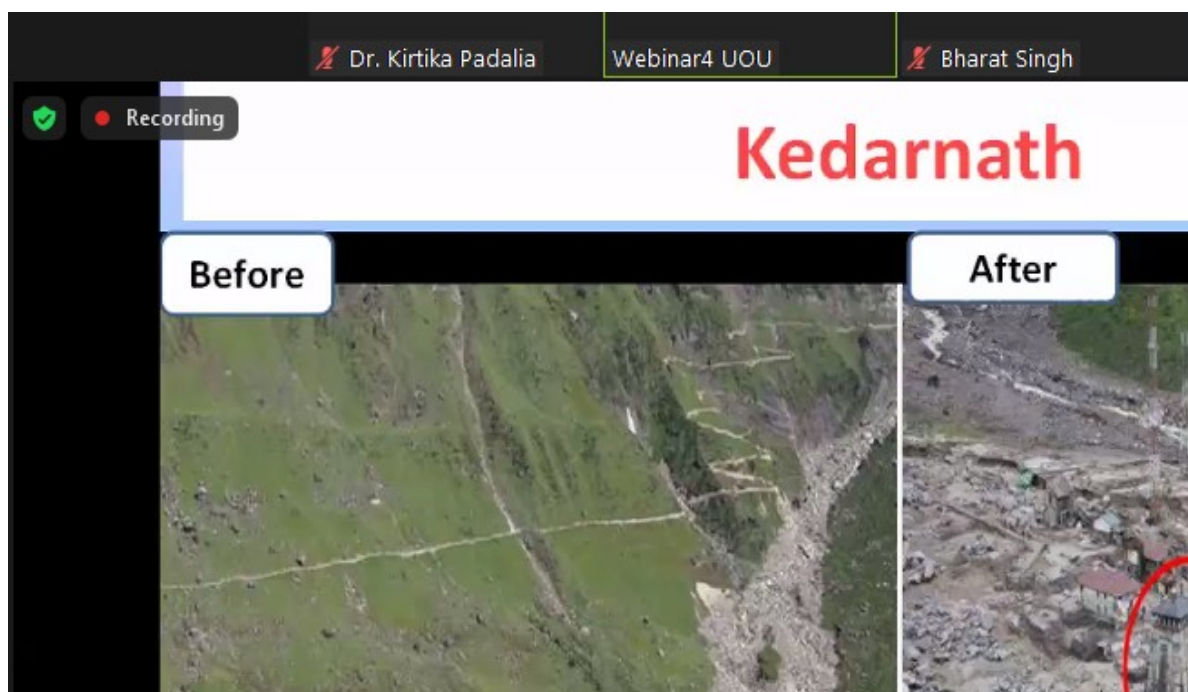
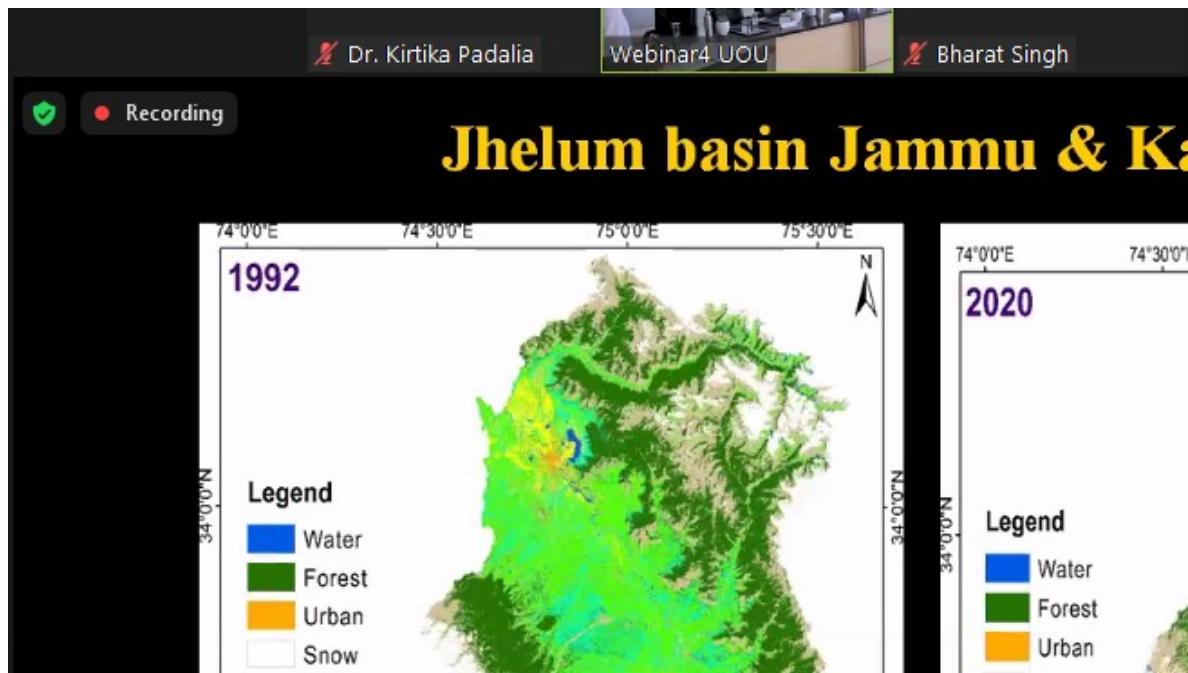
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# IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT IN HIMALAYAS

हिमालय दिवस  
(नौ सितम्बर, 2025)

A brain storming session on  
Conservation of Himalayan Region  
Organised By  
Uttarakhand Open University

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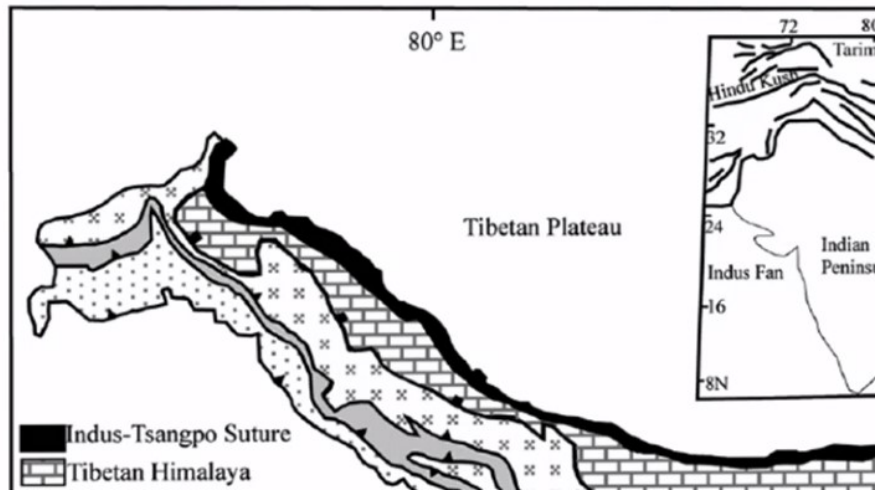
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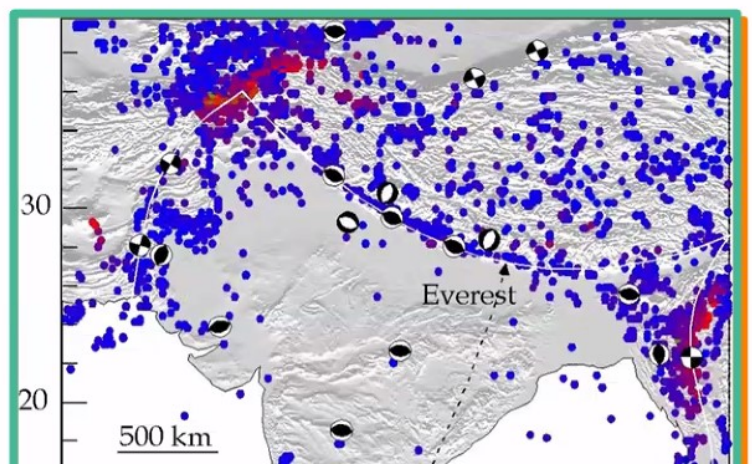
## हिमालय पर्वत निर्माण

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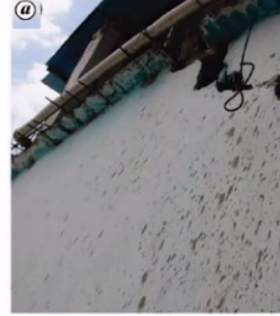
## Tectonic zones of Hima



## Seismicity in Himalaya

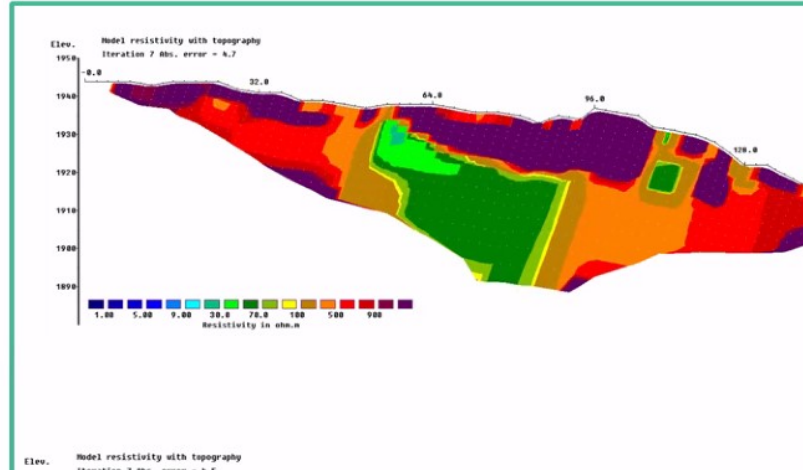


# जोशीमठ धसांव



# मनोहर बाग

SSE



Some glimpse of the sessions in Celebration of Himalaya Day: A Brainstorming Session on "Conservation of Himalayan Region"