

4th National Seminar

The 4th National Seminar and Annual Meet of the Geographical Society of Himachal Pradesh (GSHP) was organized by the Centre of Excellence, Government Degree College, Sanjauli, Shimla, on the theme **“Geography, Sustainability and Inclusive Development: Pathways to Viksit Bharat @ 2047”** from **31st October 2025 to 1st November 2025**. The seminar was sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and witnessed the participation of eminent academicians, researchers, and teachers from across the country. Around 200 delegates across nation participated in this national seminar

Day-1: 31st October 2025

The inaugural session marked the formal beginning of the two-day event. It was graced by Prof. Mahavir Singh (Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla) as the Chief Guest; Prof. Kaushal Kumar Sharma (Former Professor, CSRD, School of Social Sciences, JNU) as the Guest of Honour; and Prof. Ravindra Jaybhaye (Savitribai Phule Pune University) as the Keynote Speaker. The dais also included distinguished personalities such as Prof. Bhupinder Singh Marh (Patron, GSHP), Prof. Dev Dutt Sharma (President, GSHP), Dr. B.R. Thakur (Secretary General, GSHP), Prof. Bharti Bhagra (Principal, Government Degree College, Sanjauli), and Ms. Mona Sharma (Convenor, 4th National Seminar of GSHP). All the dignitaries were felicitated, followed by their valuable addresses and remarks.

Prof. Ravindra Jaybhaye delivered the keynote address, offering insightful perspectives closely aligned with the seminar theme, and set a scholarly tone for the event. The inaugural session was followed by the Prof. B.S. Marh Young Geographer Award Competition, coordinated by Dr. Shruti Kanga. Four participants presented their research work in an engaging and well-illustrated manner. Raffi Sambyal from Panjab University was adjudged the winner, while Ms. Purnima was the runner-up.

Post-lunch, technical sessions were organized in multiple venues within the college campus. A total of six sessions were conducted parallelly, where faculty members and research scholars from within and outside Himachal Pradesh presented their research papers. Each presentation reflected a unique perspective on the sub-themes, contributing to enriching academic discourse and widening the intellectual horizon of participants.

The plenary session, chaired by Prof. Kaushal Kumar Sharma and Prof. K.S. Sohal, followed the technical sessions. The plenary speakers namely; Prof. Seema Jalan, Shri A.N. Gautam, and Prof. Simrit Kahlon, delivered thought-provoking lectures that deepened the understanding of geographical approaches to sustainability and development. Subsequently, the GSHP Annual Meeting was held, during which various agendas were discussed, and the proceedings were recorded by Ms. Janhavi Thakur, a research scholar from the Department of Geography, HPU, Shimla.

The day concluded with a vibrant cultural evening that showcased the talent and spirit of the college students through performances of Himachali folk dance, music, and other cultural activities, adding color and liveliness to the scholarly atmosphere.

Day-2: 1st November 2025

The second day of the seminar began with the continuation of technical sessions. A total of five sessions were conducted parallelly across different venues, featuring a series of research presentations by faculty members and scholars from various institutions across the country. The sessions provided a stimulating platform for sharing innovative ideas, methodologies, and findings that aligned with the central theme of the seminar.

Following the technical sessions, a panel discussion was organized in the college auditorium. The session was chaired by Prof. R.D. Gurjar and Prof. Ravindra Jaybhaye, and included five panelists namely; Dr. Manjit Singh, Prof. Sachin Kumar, Dr. Amrita Bajaj, Mr. Parveen Gulia, and Prof. (Dr.) Suraj Kumar Singh. The discussion offered a multidimensional perspective on geography's role in ensuring sustainable and inclusive development, with panelists sharing their expertise on contemporary research directions and policy relevance. The interactive session encouraged meaningful dialogue among participants, reinforcing the collaborative spirit of the seminar.

The two-day academic event concluded with the valedictory session, which was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Himanshu Kumar Chaturvedi (Director, IIAS, Shimla) as the Chief Guest, along with other dignitaries on the dais. The session included reflections on the seminar's key takeaways, expressions of gratitude, and distribution of certificates to all participants and winners of the Young Geographer Award Competition.

The successful completion of the seminar was made possible through the dedicated efforts and coordination of Prof. Bharti Bhagra (Principal, Government Degree College, Sanjauli), Ms. Mona Sharma (Convenor), the faculty members of Government Degree College Sanjauli, research scholars of the Department of Geography, Himachal Pradesh University, and the sincere students of the college. The seminar concluded on a positive note, reaffirming the importance of academic collaboration, traditional wisdom, and innovative geographical thinking in shaping pathways to a sustainable and inclusive Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Submitted by:

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Glimpse of the Seminar



From left to Left : Ms. Mona Sharma (Convenor, 4th National Seminar of GSHP); Prof. Ravindra Jaybhaye (Savitribai Phule Pune University) as the Keynote Speaker; Prof. Kaushal Kumar Sharma (Former Professor, CSRD, School of Social Sciences, JNU) as the Guest of Honour; Prof. Mahavir Singh (Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla) as the Chief Guest; Prof. Bharti Bhagra (Principal, Government Degree College, Sanjauli), Prof. Dev Dutt Sharma (President, GSHP), Dr. B.R. Thakur, Prof. Bhupinder Singh Marh (Patron, GSHP), (Secretary General, GSHP)































A Warm Note Shared by Secretary GSHP

On behalf of GSHP, I extend heartfelt thanks and warm congratulations to Prof. Bharti Bhagra, Worthy Principal, Patron & Chief Advisor of the National Seminar & to Ms. Mona Sharma, Convenor of the National Seminar, for the grand success of the event. The exemplary discipline demonstrated by the college staff under the inspiring leadership of Prof. Bharti Bhagra, the spirit of teamwork she cultivated & the valuable time and guidance she devoted throughout the programme are truly commendable and worthy of emulation. Honestly speaking, the dedicated and painstaking efforts of Ms. Mona Sharma, marked by her tireless commitment and many sleepless nights, elevated the quality and stature of GSHP programmes.

On behalf of GSHP, I also convey sincere gratitude to all senior geographers namely Prof. K.S. Sohal, Prof. R.D. Gujjar, Prof. D.D. Chunial, Sh. A.N. Gautam (Former State Town Planner, Himachal Pradesh), Prof. B.S. Marh, Prof. Kaushal K. Sharma, Prof. P.D. Bhardwaj and all others presently serving in various universities and colleges across nine states, for their gracious participation in the event. A special word of thanks is due to Prof. Ravindera G. Jayabhaye, University of Pune, Maharashtra, for delivering the keynote address.

Once again, heartfelt thanks to Prof. Bharti Bhagra, Ms. Mona Sharma, the entire college faculty and staff & all distinguished members of GSHP for their valuable contributions, physical presence and collective efforts in making the seminar an inspiring, enriching and resounding success.

BR Thakur

Secretary, GSHP



