

REPORT
on
One-day workshop
on
International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
Organised
by
Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction



Islamic University of Science and Technology
Awantipora Kashmir-192122 (J&K)
in collaboration with



Department of Disaster management, Relief,
Rehabilitation and Reconstruction,
Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

VENU: Lal DED AUDITORIUM, AB-III, IUST
13th October, 2025

FLYER

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, AJITHABAD

**CENTRE FOR
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, IUST**
ORGANISING

ONE-DAY WORKSHOP
On
**INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

IN COLLABORATION WITH:
DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT, RELIEF, REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION,
GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DATE & TIME:
13TH OCTOBER, 2019, 10:45 AM

ORGANIZER:
DR. IRFAN MAZDOOR BHAT, COORDINATOR, CDPR, IUST

VENUE: LAL BETH AUDITORIUM, ACADEMIC BLOCK-III

ABOUT IUST

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), located in Awantipora, Kashmir, is a premier higher education institution established with the aim of advancing knowledge and fostering innovation in science, technology, and other academic disciplines. Founded in 2005, the university has become a hub for academic excellence, research, and professional development in the region, playing a pivotal role in addressing local and global challenges. IUST offers a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs across various disciplines, including engineering, technology, social sciences, business, humanities, and architecture. The university emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to education, integrating modern research and teaching methodologies to enhance students' knowledge and skill sets. The university is deeply committed to promoting research and innovation. It has established several research centres and initiatives to tackle emerging issues, including the Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR), which focuses on disaster preparedness, mitigation, and resilience-building – an increasingly vital area of study for the region. IUST prioritizes student engagement and development, offering numerous co-curricular activities, workshops, and seminars to enhance students' leadership skills, critical thinking, and professional growth. The university fosters a dynamic campus culture, encouraging students to participate in debates, sports, and other extracurricular activities. IUST maintains strong collaborations with national and international universities, research institutions, and industries. These partnerships aim to foster academic exchange, joint research projects, and knowledge-sharing in areas like sustainable development, climate change, disaster risk reduction, and technological advancements. IUST envisions becoming a leader in higher education and research, not just within Jammu & Kashmir but also on the global stage. It is committed to empowering students to meet the needs of the modern world, with a strong emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and community service. The university's growing reputation as a centre of learning is reflected in its expanding academic programs, world-class faculty, and cutting-edge research facilities, all contributing to its goal of shaping the future of education and development in the region.

ABOUT DMRRR

The Jammu & Kashmir, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR) came to effect on 30, December, 2016 vide Cabinet Decision of J&K govt. The mission of the Department of DMRRR is to ensure the safety of communities by promoting a community-based approach to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). This involves reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing effective disaster response through awareness programs and capacity-building initiatives. The department is dedicated to implementing appropriate measures to prevent danger and mitigate risks, ensuring that both natural and man-made disasters are addressed comprehensively. In times of disaster, the DMRRR provides timely assistance to those in distress, helping them recover and rebuild. Additionally, the department plays a key role in resolving issues related to displaced communities, including Kashmiri/Jammu migrants, those displaced in 1947, Chhamb displaced persons (1965/1971), and West Pakistani refugees. It aims to bridge the gap in identifying sufferers of natural calamities, ensuring that all affected individuals receive the support they need. The DMRRR envisions a future where DRR is fully integrated into all developmental initiatives, ensuring the sustainability of investments and creating a disaster-resilient Jammu & Kashmir. By enhancing the capacity of all stakeholders – governments, communities, and institutions – the department seeks to respond to disasters in a planned and effective manner, minimizing the loss of lives, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure. This includes protecting essential services like healthcare, education, and social and cultural assets from the impacts of disasters. Moreover, the department is committed to providing rapid and appropriate assistance to disaster victims, facilitating their recovery process efficiently. Alongside disaster management efforts, DMRRR continues to support Kashmiri/Jammu migrants, displaced persons of 1947, Chhamb displaced persons (1965/1971), and West Pakistani refugees, ensuring their issues are addressed and their rehabilitation needs met. The overarching goal is to make Jammu & Kashmir a safer, more resilient region, prepared to face any disaster.

ORGANIZING TEAM

S.No.	Name & Designation	Role	Responsibility
1	Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo HVC, IUST	Chairperson	Overall Supervision
2	Prof. Abdul Wahid Registrar, IUST	Member	Administrative Support
3	Prof. Shakeel Ahmed Consultant, IUST	Convener	Technical Programs and Guests
4	Dr. Farooq Hussain Bhat Dean, School of Sciences	Member	Technical Programs and Guests
5	Dr. Ruheela Hassan Assoc. Prof. DJMC	Member	Media Coverage
6	Dr. Irfan Maqbool Bhat Coordinator, CDRR	Organizing Secretary	Overall Coordination
7	Dr. S. Iqbal Quraishi Dy. Registrar, Estates	Member	Venue Management
8	Er. Mir Aijaz Ahmad Head, Civil Engineering	Member	
9	Mr. Mehran Qureshi AP, Architecture	Member	
10	Dr. Sumaira Zaz Coordinator, ES&CC	Member	Poster Session Management
11	Dr. Tariq Abdullah Head, P&G	Member	
12	Mr. Waseem Qader AP, CDRR	Co-Organizing Secretary	
13	Dr. Yasir Altaf AP, ES&CC	Member	Food & Catering
14	Dr. Dharam Chand AP, ES&CC		
15	Mr. Mohammad Saleem AP, P&G	Member	Registration
16	Dr. Jasia Bashir AP, P&G	Member	Host
17	Dr. Mahek Majeed AP, Economics	Member	
18	Dr. Sayar Ahmad Mir AP, DJMC	Member	Banner Design
19	Mrs. Arjumand Bashir Sr. Technical Assistant, CDRR	Member	IT-Related Support
20	Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Gilkar Jr. Tech. Asst., DJMC	Member	Photography and Videography

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction-2025: 1-Day Workshop (13th October 2025)

Activities	Speakers	TIME (HRS)	Venue		
Arrival of Guests and Registration		10:00	Domestic Library		
Inaugural Session (Moderated by Dr. Mehak Majumdar, Dept of Economics)					
UJST Tansen	Recorded	10:45	Venue: Lal Ded Auditorium		
Welcome Address	Prof. Asar Hameed Akram Dean Academic Affairs, UJST	10:58			
Presentation of Theme	Prof. Shafiqul Alam Coordinator, UJST	10:59			
Social Remarks	Prof. Abdul Wahid Maqsood Executive, UJST	10:57			
Presidential Address	Prof. Shafiqul Alam Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, UJST	11:00			
Introducing the Chief Guest	Dr. Imtiaz Maqsood Akram Coordinator, UJST	11:11			
Address by the Chief Guest	Dr. Afroz Ahmad Hon'ble Member, National Green Tribunal (NGT)	11:14			
Felicitation of the Guests	By UJST	11:24			
Vote of Thanks	Mr. Wasim Qadir Assistant Professor, UJST	11:27			
Tea Break (Outside the Lal Ded Auditorium)		11:30			
Special Talk-I	Dr. Afroz Ahmad, Hon'ble Member, National Green Tribunal On Ecosystem Approach for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development	11:40	Venue: Conference Hall, Rumi Library		
Panel Discussion: Flood Resilience, Not Disasters	Chairperson: Prof. Shafiqul Alam HVC, UJST Panelists: 1. Dr. Afroz Ahmad, Hon'ble Member, NGT. 2. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Climate Finance Advisor, UNESCO (online) 3. Dr. Farooq Ahmad, ANRF, New Delhi (online) 4. Dr. Saikat, Dept of Earth Sci., Univ of Kashmir (online) 5. Dr. Shafiqul Alam, CBR-IRM, Sri Nagar Branch 6. Dr. Shafiqul Alam, Prof. Scientist, CBR-IRM, UJST	12:30			
	Lunch Break			12:44	CHD, UJST
	Poster Session			14:14	Outside the Conference Hall, Rumi Library
	Voluntary Session (Moderated by Dr. Mehak Majumdar, Dept of Economics, UJST)				
	Workshop Session	Dr. Imtiaz Maqsood Akram, Coordinator, UJST		15:00	Conference Hall, Rumi Library
	Chief Guest: Hon'ble Minister & Address by Chief Guest	Mr. Shafiqul Alam, IAS Deputy Secretary to the Govt, Dept of TMRD, Govt of J&K		15:10	
Presidential Remarks	Prof. Asar Hameed Akram Dean Academic Affairs, UJST	15:25			
Vote of Thanks	Mr. Mohammad Sahar, AP, DOUG, UJST	15:30			
End of the Workshop (Tea will be served during the hour)					

1. INTRODUCTION

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) was established in 1989 following a call by the United Nations General Assembly to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. Celebrated annually on October 13, this day highlights the efforts of people and communities worldwide in reducing disaster risk and exposure. Given the increasing frequency of disasters, many driven and exacerbated by climate change, children and youth are particularly vulnerable. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), approximately one billion children are at high risk due to climate impacts, including climate-related disasters. The consequences for children extend beyond immediate harm, as they face disruptions in education, healthcare, nutrition, and safety in the aftermath of disasters. To mitigate these risks, national and local disaster risk reduction strategies must prioritize the needs and vulnerabilities of children. Moreover, empowering youth by giving them the space to actively contribute to disaster risk reduction is critical, as highlighted in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework highlighted a critical need for more and better financing for disaster risk reduction (DRR). While some progress has been made in mainstreaming DRR into national policies and improving risk assessments, financing remains a major gap. Disasters are becoming more frequent, more costly, and more devastating. While direct disaster costs have grown to approximately \$202 billion annually, the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2025 estimates that the true cost, is 11 times higher at nearly \$2.3 trillion. Despite this, investment in disaster risk reduction (DRR) remains far too low in national budgets and international assistance. Under the theme “Fund Resilience, Not Disasters”, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025 calls for a decisive shift: fund resilience now to avoid paying for disasters later. Risks can be transformed into opportunities through investments in resilience building.

India's unique geo-climatic and socio-economic conditions make it highly susceptible to a range of natural and manmade disasters. Among the 36 States and Union Territories (UTs), 27 are disaster-prone. The country faces the threat of floods, droughts, cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes, urban flooding, landslides, avalanches, and forest fires. Around 58.6% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes, 12% is vulnerable to floods and river erosion, and 68% of the cultivable land is at risk of drought. Coastal areas, comprising 5,700 km of India's 7,516 km coastline, are susceptible to cyclones and tsunamis. The country's growing vulnerabilities

are compounded by rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, climate change, and demographic pressures, which have led to a higher risk of disasters.

The Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir, located at the northernmost extremity of India, is uniquely positioned both geographically and climatically. With a diverse topography that includes mountains, rivers, and valleys, Jammu & Kashmir faces a range of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, avalanches, and snowstorms. The region falls predominantly within Seismic Zones IV and V, making it highly vulnerable to earthquakes. Districts such as Anantnag, Srinagar, Baramulla, and Kupwara are especially at risk due to their classification in the highest seismic zone. In addition to earthquakes, landslides are a common threat in the region, often triggered by flash floods in narrow river gorges. Deforestation, unscientific construction practices, and other human activities have increased the frequency and intensity of these landslides. The region has also experienced erratic weather patterns in recent years, leading to increased occurrences of flash floods and other hydro-meteorological hazards. The catastrophic floods of September 2014, for example, caused widespread devastation in the Jhelum, Chenab, and Tawi basins. Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) are another growing concern due to the melting of glaciers in the region. As temperatures rise, glacial lakes formed by the accumulation of water from melting ice become vulnerable to sudden outbursts, threatening downstream communities. The Himalayan cryosphere, which includes Jammu and Kashmir, is becoming more vulnerable to these hazards as the climate continues to warm.

Over the past two decades, India has shifted its disaster management approach from being relief-centric to adopting a holistic, integrated model that emphasizes prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) plays a central role in fostering a disaster-resilient India through technology-driven and sustainable development strategies. The Prime Minister's 10-Point Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction further emphasizes collaboration with scientific, academic, and private sectors to enhance global best practices in disaster management. The National Disaster Management Plan (2019), aligned with the Sendai Framework, underscores the role of education in disaster risk reduction and advocates for the integration of disaster management into curricula. The institutional framework for disaster management, as established by the Disaster Management Act (DM Act) of 2005, includes the National, State, and District Disaster Management Authorities, with the Prime Minister chairing the NDMA. In Jammu & Kashmir, the Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) and Department of

Disaster management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) facilitates disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation efforts within the region.

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) established the Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR) to address the growing need for research, education, and community engagement in disaster risk reduction. The Centre aims to foster a culture of resilience through cutting-edge research, knowledge sharing, capacity-building programs, and workshops. By collaborating with national and international institutions, the CDRR seeks to enhance understanding and preparedness for potential disasters in Jammu and Kashmir.

To commemorate IDDRR-2025, the CDRR at IUST in collaboration with the Department of DMRRR, Govt. of J&K organized a one-day workshop on October 13, 2025. Aligned with the theme of "Fund Resilience Not Disasters," the event brought together students, faculty, and researchers to discuss the role of funds in building disaster resilience among youth. The workshop also highlighted the vulnerabilities of Jammu and Kashmir to natural disasters and explored ways to strengthen disaster risk reduction efforts in the region.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the one-day workshop on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2025 event at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) was to promote a culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction among students, celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. This event was designed to foster collaboration among academia, government, and researchers, with the goal of creating a safer, more resilient future for all. The event aimed to:

1. Highlight the critical role of education in protecting and preparing youth for future disasters, aligned with the IDDRR-2025 theme: "Fund Resilience Not Disasters."
2. Engage students, faculty, researchers, and policymakers in discussions on reducing disaster risks and vulnerabilities, particularly in the context of Jammu and Kashmir's unique hazard profile.
3. Promote a better understanding of disaster risks and mitigation strategies through knowledge sharing, poster presentations, and panel discussions, thereby encouraging youth participation in DRR efforts.
4. Raise awareness of the increasing challenges posed by climate change, geological hazards, and hydrometeorological risks in Jammu and Kashmir, while exploring solutions for sustainable and disaster-resilient development.

3. TARGET AUDIENCE

As the future leaders and change-makers, students from diverse disciplines were encouraged to participate in the workshop, reflecting the belief that investing in knowledge and preparedness today builds resilience for tomorrow. The event sought to raise awareness about disaster risks while empowering students to become active contributors in creating safer, more resilient communities. A special focus was placed on engaging them through a poster session that highlighted innovative ideas on disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response. Academic professionals from IUST and other institutions, particularly those working in disaster risk reduction, climate change, architecture, civil engineering, and, played a vital role in enriching the discourse. Officials from the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) were among the key participants, contributing valuable insights into policy and strategic frameworks for risk reduction. The workshop served as a collaborative platform for dialogue between academia, practitioners, and policymakers, encouraging a shift from reactive funding after disasters to proactive investment in resilience-building initiatives. By fostering shared learning and collective responsibility, the event embodied the spirit of the theme “*Fund Resilience, Not Disasters*,” underscoring the importance of preparedness, innovation, and sustainable action in safeguarding the future

4. SCOPE

The scope of the *International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2025* event at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) revolved around the global theme “*Fund Resilience, Not Disasters*.” The event sought to highlight the critical need for proactive investment in resilience-building measures rather than reactive expenditure following disasters. It underscored the importance of shifting focus from post-disaster relief to pre-disaster preparedness, risk reduction, and sustainable adaptation strategies. Anchored in the principles of education, collaboration, and community engagement, the event aimed to foster a culture of resilience within academic and local communities. It emphasized the role of students, researchers, and young professionals as catalysts of change, empowering them with the knowledge, tools, and motivation to contribute to disaster-resilient development. By integrating DRR concepts into academic learning and professional practice, the event encouraged a long-term vision of safety and sustainability.

Through interactive sessions, panel discussion, and poster presentations, the program created a multidisciplinary platform for dialogue among scholars, policymakers, and practitioners. Participants from diverse fields such as disaster risk reduction, climate change

studies, architecture, civil engineering, shared insights and best practices on resilience financing, disaster governance, and community preparedness.

Special attention was given to the unique vulnerabilities of Jammu and Kashmir, a region highly exposed to earthquakes, floods, landslides, and climate-induced hazards. The discussions explored innovative and cost-effective resilience measures, local adaptation strategies, and the potential of academic institutions, particularly the Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR), IUST, to act as a regional hub for research, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination. The event also facilitated collaboration between academia, government bodies such as the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), and civil society organizations to strengthen disaster governance and financing frameworks. By promoting partnerships with national and international institutions, it reinforced the idea that sustainable development depends on sustained investment in resilience. The scope of the event extended beyond awareness-raising, it aimed to mobilize action, policy dialogue, and innovation that translate the theme “*Fund Resilience, Not Disasters*” into practice. Through this initiative, IUST reaffirmed its commitment to advancing research, education, and advocacy in disaster risk reduction, ensuring that resilience becomes a shared priority and a collective responsibility

5. SUMMARY

The one-day workshop on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2025 was organized by the Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR), Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Government of J&K, on October 13, 2025. Dr. Afroz Ahmad, Hon’ble Member, National Green Tribunal (NGT), served as the Chief Guest. The event was graced by Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo (Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, IUST), Prof. Abdul Wahid Maqdoomi (Registrar, IUST), Prof. Ayaz Hassan Moon (Dean Academic Affairs, IUST), Prof. Shakeel Ahmad (Consultant, IUST), and Dr. Irfan Maqbool Bhat (Coordinator, CDRR, IUST).

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2025 was held under the global theme “*Fund Resilience, Not Disasters.*” The event emphasized the need for proactive investment in preparedness and resilience-building rather than reactive spending after disasters. It aimed to promote a culture of safety and sustainability by engaging academia, government institutions, and young professionals in discussions on disaster risk governance, resilience financing, and sustainable development. The workshop included an Inaugural Session, Special

Talk, Panel Discussion, Poster Session, and Valedictory Session. The Special Talk on “*Ecosystem Approach for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development*” was delivered by Dr. Afroz Ahmad, while the Panel Discussion on the theme “*Fund Resilience, Not Disasters*” featured distinguished experts from NGT, UNESCO, ANRF, University of Kashmir, CSIR-IIIM Srinagar, and CGWB. The Poster Session engaged students and research scholars in presenting innovative ideas on disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response. The Valedictory Session included the presentation of Workshop Report, Certificate Distribution and Presidential Remarks.

The event brought together students, faculty, researchers, policymakers, and disaster management professionals to deliberate on strategies for financing resilience and strengthening disaster preparedness in Jammu and Kashmir. By involving this diverse audience, the workshop fostered collaboration between academia, government bodies, and civil society organizations. It highlighted the importance of investing in resilience as a cornerstone of sustainable development and encouraged collective efforts toward building disaster-resilient communities in the region.

5.1. Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2025 began with the soulful rendition of the *IUST Tarana*, setting a reflective tone for the day. The session was anchored by Dr. Mehak Majeed, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, and commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Ayaz Hassan Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST. Prof. Shakeel Ahmed, Consultant at IUST, presented the global theme for IDDRR 2025, “*Fund Resilience, Not Disasters.*” He emphasized the urgent need to transition from reactive spending after disasters to proactive investment in preparedness, mitigation, and community resilience. Delivering the special remarks, Prof. Abdul Wahid Maqdoomi, Registrar, IUST, highlighted the pivotal role of academic institutions in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR) education and promoting a culture of preparedness among students. The presidential address was delivered by Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, IUST, who underlined the importance of financing resilience as a core development strategy. He urged for greater collaboration between academia, government, and communities to ensure that resources are directed toward strengthening adaptive capacities rather than responding to losses. The Chief Guest, Dr. Afroz Ahmad, Hon’ble Member, National Green Tribunal (NGT), delivered an inspiring address, stressing the importance of integrating environmental governance with DRR. He emphasized ecosystem-based approaches to resilience, illustrating

how sustainable management of natural resources can reduce vulnerabilities and enhance long-term community preparedness. The session also featured introductory remarks by Dr. Irfan Maqbool Bhat, Coordinator, CDRR and Organizing Secretary, who outlined the objectives of the event and reaffirmed CDRR's commitment to advancing research and awareness in disaster risk management. The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Waseem Qader, Assistant Professor, CDRR, IUST, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and collaborators for their contributions to the success of the event. The inaugural session effectively set the tone for the day's deliberations, reinforcing the theme "*Fund Resilience, Not Disasters*" by emphasizing the importance of education, collaboration, and proactive investment in resilience-building initiatives for a safer and sustainable future.

5.2. Special Talk

The Special Talk was delivered by Dr. Afroz Ahmad, Hon'ble Member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), during the inaugural session of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2025. His talk, titled "*Ecosystem Approach for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development*," offered profound insights into the intersection of environmental governance, ecological sustainability, and disaster resilience. Drawing from his extensive experience at the NGT, Dr. Ahmad illustrated the importance of integrating environmental protection within national disaster management frameworks. He discussed several landmark environmental and developmental cases from across India to highlight how ecological degradation and unplanned infrastructure development increase disaster risks. Citing the Char Dham Highway Project and issues in Uttarkashi, he explained how large-scale construction in fragile Himalayan terrains has disrupted natural drainage systems and aggravated the frequency of landslides and flash floods. Referring to the Narmada Project, he emphasized the long-term social and ecological costs of development projects that neglect environmental safeguards, underscoring the need for balanced, sustainable growth. Dr. Ahmad stressed that ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) is a cost-effective and sustainable strategy for mitigating natural hazards. Preserving forests, wetlands, and river basins, he noted, strengthens natural buffers, enhances climate resilience, and safeguards livelihoods. He urged policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to prioritize resilience financing, emphasizing that proactive investment in natural systems is far more effective than reactive relief measures. The talk aligned strongly with the 2025 IDDRR theme, "*Fund Resilience, Not Disasters*." It called for a paradigm shift in development thinking, where resilience, sustainability, and ecosystem protection become the foundation of national planning

and policy. The session concluded with an engaging interaction between the speaker and participants, who discussed how lessons from these national experiences could inform regional resilience strategies in Jammu and Kashmir, given its fragile mountainous ecology and high disaster vulnerability.

5.3. Panel Discussion

The Panel Discussion on the theme “*Fund Resilience, Not Disasters*” was one of the key highlights of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2025. The session was chaired by Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), and moderated by Dr. Irfan Maqbool Bhat, Coordinator, Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR), IUST. The distinguished panelists included Dr. Afroz Ahmad (Hon’ble Member, National Green Tribunal), Dr. Prahalaad Ram (Advisor, ANRF, New Delhi), Dr. Sarah (University of Kashmir), Dr. Shahid Rasool (CSIR-IIIM, Srinagar), and Dr. Rayees Ahmad Pir (CGWB-NWHR). Each speaker shared expert insights on resilience financing, disaster risk governance, and sustainable adaptation practices, offering both global and regional perspectives.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Romshoo emphasized that effective disaster risk reduction requires a strategic shift from reactive expenditure after disasters to proactive investments in resilience. He called for institutional mechanisms to mainstream risk-informed decision-making in development planning, especially in ecologically fragile regions such as Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Afroz Ahmad highlighted the critical role of policy frameworks and judicial interventions in ensuring environmental accountability. He reiterated that development projects must incorporate environmental safeguards and social impact assessments to prevent the escalation of hazard exposure. Dr. Prahalaad Ram emphasized the importance of science-based policymaking and the need for financial mechanisms to support climate-resilient infrastructure. He elaborated on ANRF help governments manage disaster risks more efficiently. Dr. Sarah focused on groundwater problems, while Dr. Rayees Ahmad Pir shared insights from hydrological and geological perspectives, emphasizing groundwater management, aquifer mapping, and watershed conservation as essential for reducing hazard impacts in mountainous terrain. The discussion converged on a shared understanding that funding resilience is both an economic and moral imperative, a necessary investment for sustainable development and social well-being. Panellists agreed that coordinated action between academia, government, civil society, and international agencies is crucial to building adaptive capacity and reducing vulnerabilities at all levels. The session concluded with an

interactive Q&A segment, where participants discussed regional challenges, such as land-use changes, climate-induced hazards, and community engagement in DRR. The panel collectively reaffirmed that proactive investment in resilience is far more cost-effective than post-disaster recovery, echoing the essence of the 2025 theme, *“Fund Resilience, Not Disasters.”*

5.4. Poster Session

The Poster Session commenced following the lunch break, and held outside the Conference Hall, Rumi Library. Students from FYUGP and research scholars showcased their work across various disaster categories, presenting innovative ideas, research findings, and practical solutions in disaster risk reduction. Participants interacted with the audience and explained their posters, which encouraged knowledge sharing and discussions on contemporary disaster challenges. A three-member jury carefully evaluated the presentations based on quality, clarity, visual presentation, and originality. After thorough deliberation, the top three posters were recognized and awarded for their exemplary contributions. The session provided a dynamic platform for young students to demonstrate their expertise and creativity in disaster resilience and risk management, reinforcing the workshop’s overall objective of fostering informed and proactive approaches to disaster risk reduction.

5.5. Valedictory Session

The valedictory session, chaired by Prof. Ayaz Hassan Moon (Dean Academic Affairs, IUST), featured the workshop report presented by Dr. Irfan Maqbool Bhat and the certificate distribution by Mrs. Snober Jameel, JKAS, Deputy Secretary, DMRRR, Government of J&K. The session concluded with presidential remarks by Prof. Moon and a vote of thanks by Mr. Mohammad Saleem, Assistant Professor, Department of Planning & Geography, IUST.

6. KEY TAKEAWAYS

Proactive investment in disaster resilience is crucial for reducing vulnerabilities and safeguarding communities. The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2025 emphasized the need to fund resilience rather than rely on reactive disaster response. Jammu & Kashmir, being prone to earthquakes, floods, landslides, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), requires targeted strategies for preparedness, mitigation, and sustainable development. Addressing these risks demands coordinated efforts across sectors, integrating environmental governance, scientific research, and community engagement.

Ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) are essential for building long-term resilience. Preserving forests, wetlands, river basins, and other natural

systems strengthens protective buffers, reduces hazard exposure, and safeguards livelihoods. Unplanned infrastructure and ecological degradation, as seen in projects like Char Dham Highway, Uttarkashi, and Narmada, highlight the importance of integrating sustainability and risk considerations into development planning. Resilience financing, environmental safeguards, and policy interventions are critical to ensuring sustainable outcomes.

Collaboration between academia, government, civil society, and international organizations is key to effective disaster risk management. The workshop highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement, gender- and socially-inclusive approaches, and science-based policymaking. Universities, such as IUST's Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR), serve as resource centres for DRR education, research, and innovation. The event reinforced the role of students and young professionals as agents of change, contributing to knowledge exchange, innovative solutions, and community capacity-building.

Innovative financial instruments, including resilience bonds, insurance schemes, and contingency funds, are necessary to support proactive disaster preparedness. Technology, research, and continuous innovation play a vital role in early warning systems, hazard mapping, and adaptive planning. Strengthening institutional frameworks and policies, along with local community engagement, ensures timely and effective responses to disasters. The workshop underscored that investing in resilience, integrating ecosystem-based approaches, and fostering multi-sectoral collaboration are indispensable for building disaster-resilient communities in Jammu and Kashmir.

LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

S.No.	Name	Semester	Department
1.	Tajali Ismail	1 st	Environmental Science
2.	Azra Jan	1 st	Environmental Science
3.	Saniya Mustafa Sheikh	1 st	Environmental Science
4.	Sibat Imtiyaz	1 st	Planning and Geomatics
5.	Tehreen	1 st	Environmental Science
6.	Mehroosha Manzoor	1 st	Environmental Science
7.	Sabah Fayaz	1 st	Planning and Geomatics
8.	Ibad Ullah Malik	1 st	English language and literature
9.	Bareeka Farooq	3 rd	Economics
10.	Fozia Riyaz	3	English language and literature
11.	Basim Basharat	3 rd	Economics
12.	Minaal	3 rd	Economics
13.	Habub	3 rd	Economics
14.	Ayesha Mehran	3 rd	English language & literature
15.	SHARIQ SHAFI BHAT	3 rd	English language and literature
16.	Habib	3 rd	Economics
17.	Mehki Niyaz	3 rd	English language and literature
18.	Huzaif Yaseen	3 rd	Economics
19.	Minaal	3 rd	Economics
20.	Mehki Niyaz	3 rd	English language and literature
21.	Nida Sofi	3 rd	English language and literature
22.	Rabiya Ajaz	3 rd	English language and literature
23.	Bazila Fayaz	3 rd	English language and literature
24.	Nazila Farooq	3 rd	English language and literature
25.	Rutba Firdous	1 st	Planning and Geomatics
26.	Sadiya Altaf Janwari	3 rd	Economics
27.	Seerat Gul	3 rd	English language and literature
28.	Falak Jan	1 st	Environmental Science
29.	Zufa Mushtaq	1 st	Planning and Geomatics
30.	Safoora Feroz	1 st	Environmental Science
31.	Afreen Khurshid	Ph.D. Scholar	Environmental Science
32.	Soha ul Islam	6 th	Environmental science
33.	Shahnaza Akhter	Ph.D. Scholar	Environmental science
34.	Naila Nabi	Ph.D. Scholar	Environmental Science
35.	Tahneet Bashir	3 rd	Arabic
36.	Suhana Majeed	3 rd	Islamic Studies
37.	Maysar Majeed	3 rd	Islamic Studies
38.	Arshima	3 rd	Artificial Intelligence
39.	Raheela Ashraf	3 rd	Artificial Intelligence
40.	Munazah Rashid	3 rd	Computer Sciences
41.	Salim Sabha	3 rd	Mathematical Science
42.	Aida Jamsheed	3 rd	Computer Sciences

43.	Hadiya Aslam	3 rd	Artificial Intelligence
44.	Irfan Javaid	3 rd	Mathematical Sciences
45.	Sheikh Adnan Hilal	3 rd	Economics
46.	Faheem Zahoor	3 rd	Computer Sciences
47.	Adnan lone	3 rd	Physics
48.	Afaq Muzafar	3 rd	Mathematical Sciences
49.	Rosheeba Altaf	3 rd	Computer Sciences
50.	Arshima	3 rd	Artificial Intelligence
51.	Asma	3 rd	English language and literature
52.	Furqan Ahmad Bhat	3 rd	Physics
53.	Adnan Nazir	3 rd	Mathematical Sciences
54.	Tahneet Bashir	3 rd	Arabic
55.	Syed Mousin Jalali	1 st	Artificial Intelligence
56.	Rosheeba Altaf	3 rd	Computer Sciences
57.	Salim Sabha	3 rd	Mathematical Sciences
58.	Manzoor Ahmad Chopan	3 rd	Mathematical Sciences
59.	Suhana Majeed	3 rd	Islamic Studies
60.	Mohammad Aarib	1 st	Artificial Intelligence
61.	Shahid Nabi Bhat	3 rd	Computer Sciences
62.	Faisal	3 rd	Managing Disaster
63.	Maysar Majeed	3 rd	Islamic studies
64.	Faizan Mohi U Din	1 st	Political science
65.	Malik Abnan	1 st	Political Science
66.	Toufiq Ahmad Ganie	3 rd	Artificial Intelligence
67.	Fayaz Ahmad Paray	1 st	Political Science
68.	Kashif Nisar	1 st	Political Science
69.	Tahir Bashir Wani	3 rd	Computer Sciences
70.	Sofi Suhail	1 st	Arabic
71.	Fayika Bashir	1 st	Economics
72.	Ubaid Mushtaq	1 st	Economics
73.	Zara Ashraf	1 st	English language and literature
74.	Hameem Fatima	1 st	Political Science
75.	Rumyallah Jan	1 st	Economics
76.	Muhammad Younus Dar	1 st	Islamic Studies
77.	Rayees Ahmad Reshi	1 st	Computer Sciences
78.	Zehran Latief	1 st	Economics
79.	Peerzada Rahika Shakeel	1 st	Economics
80.	Anayat Hilal Naikoo	1 st	Economics
81.	Inab Bint Farooq	1 st	Political Science
82.	Fayika Bashir	1 st	Economics
83.	Mohmmad Farukh Iqbal	1 st	Artificial Intelligence
84.	Rosheeba	3 rd	Computer Sciences
85.	Molifa Zia	3 rd	English language and literature
86.	Bhat Fazil Fayaz	1 st	Islamic Studies

PHOTO GALLERY



Inaugural Session hosted by Dr. Mehak Majeed, AP, IUST



Welcome Address by Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST



Prof. Shakeel Ahmad, Consultant IUST presenting theme of IDDRR, 2025



Remarks by Prof. Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar, IUST



Address by Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, HVC, IUST



Introduction to the Chief Guest by Dr. Irfan Maqbool Bhat, Coordinator, CDRR, IUST



Address by the Chief Guest Dr. Afrooz Ahmad, Member, NGT



Key-note Speech by Chief Guest Dr. Afrooz Ahmad, Member, NGT on Ecosystem Approach for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development



Panel Discussion on Topic Fund Resilience Not Disasters



Panel Discussion on Topic Fund Resilience Not Disasters



Poster session outside the Rumi Library Conference Hall, IUST



Prof. Shakeel Ahmed interacting with the participants during the poster session



Valedictory session hosted by Dr. Mehak Majeed, AP, IUST



Address by Chief Guest Ms. Snober Jameel, Deputy Secretary, DMRRR, Govt. of J&K



Certificate of Appreciation presented to the participants on winning 1st position in poster presentation



Vote of Thanks by Dr. Waseem Qader, AP, IUST



Group Photograph at the end of Valedictory Session