

About Us

The Department of Geography & Regional Development was established in 1979 under the Vice Chancellorship of Prof. Wahiduddin Malik and was headed by Prof. Nasseruddin Ahmed with the objective to play an important role in planning and development of the state of Jammu & Kashmir. ***The Department was rechristened as Department of Geography & Disaster Management in the year 2021.*** The Department has set up a state of the art Remote Sensing and GIS(Geographic Information System) laboratory equipped with about fifty computer systems and related accessories. The laboratory has been established with financial support from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India under their DST-FIST Support programme. The Department has been inducted by University Grants Commission to their prestigious UGC-SAP Programme at the level of DRS-II. The Department has already successfully completed UGC-SAP at the level of DRS-I. The Department has the distinction of being the 5th Geography Department in the country to be awarded both DST-FIST and UGC-SAP. The Department has also well established Digital Cartography and Advanced Surveying Laboratories.

- To develop a high level understanding of the subject matter in all the vital sub-fields of Geography.
- To get a broad holistic picture of disaster management with particular reference to Jammu & Kashmir.
- To develop the Competence to facilitate development of inter-disciplinary approach for an easy shift over from curricular work to research activity which would be able to help the process of socio-economic development of Jammu & Kashmir state.
- To develop sufficient level of competence in the use of tools & techniques of regional analysis.
- To develop strong linkages among the various stakeholders for mitigation of disasters.

Our Department is equipped with latest IT Support such as Vidar A0 size scanner, Hp A0 size Plotter, GPS (Model Trimble UNO AS05) with its allied accessories , Lieca Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS), 40 Hand held GPS, 26 KVA UPS for power backup,

GIS software's like Erdas Imagine Professional version 9.0 (5 licenses), Arc info GIS version 9.2 (1 floating license) , Map Info latest version (10 licenses) and PCI Geomatica (10 licenses) are available for the benefit of students/scholars. Besides these, IBM server, Trimble Total Station, Automatic Weather Monitoring Stations(AWMS) and Telescopic Theodolites are other additional facilities. The classrooms are also equipped with modern gadgetry like LED's, DLP and fitted with Air conditioners.

VISION

The Department aspires to be a centre for research, innovation and education, contributing to Sustainable Development and effective Disaster Risk Reduction on regional, national and global scale. It also aims to leverage cutting-edge technologies, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and developing proactive strategies to enhance understanding of diverse geographies, mitigate risks and build disaster-resilient communities.

MISSION

To create advanced knowledge and expertise in Geographical Sciences and Disaster Management. Through rigorous research, education and community engagement, we strive to develop sustainable solutions for spatial challenges and enhance disaster resilience. Our commitment is to empower students, professionals and communities with the skills and insights to navigate and mitigate the complex interplay between Geography and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Programmes Offered

- Master's Degree in Geography
- Master's Degree in Disaster Management
- Integrated Ph.D. in Geography
- Integrated Ph.D. Disaster Management

Thrust Areas of Research

- Applied Geomorphology
- Glacial Studies
- Urbanization and Spatial Development Planning
- Environment and Health
- Tourism and Developmental Planning

- Hydrology and Watershed Studies
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Disaster Management
- Human Resource Analysis
- Remote Sensing and GIS Applications

Thrust Areas Identified under UGC-SAP (DRS-III)

Disaster, Vulnerability and Mountain Resource Planning.

Faculty Details

Departmental Faculty		
Name	Designation	Profile
Prof. M. Sultan Bhat	Professor	<i>Prof. M. Sultan Bhat</i> has obtained PhD in Geography. He has 28 years of experience in teaching and has pursued research in Urban Geography, Watershed Development, Climate Change, Environmental Studies and Social Geography. He has authored more than 150 research papers published in internationally acclaimed peer reviewed journals. Prof. Bhat is an accredited functional area expert from the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET) and has done EIA & EMP and SIA & SMP of many hydroelectric projects, roadways, industrial complexes, and tourism townships of northern India. He is currently a member of J&K Environment Impact Assessment Authority, (JK SEIAA, SEAC) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. He has completed 17 research projects sponsored by agencies like Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), University Grants Commission (UGC), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. He currently works on a joint research project entitled "Storage, transport and chemical evolution of infiltrating water in critical zone (CR), western Himalayas, sponsored by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. Prof. Bhat has availed Baden Wurttemberg Visiting Professor Fellowship at South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University Germany and was selected for the Leadership for Academician Programme (LEAP) by the UGC in March, 2019. Besides working as Head Department of Geography for 10 years, he has served as Dean, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences for a period of three years. Presently, Prof. M. Sultan Bhat is Dean Research at University of Kashmir.
Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah	Professor	<i>Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah</i> is an alumnus of Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He has undertaken trainings from reputed institutions: Indian Institute of Remote Sensing Dehradun and University of Uppsala Sweden. He is actively engaged in research and teaching for more than 25 years. His research interests are Disaster Management, Tourism Studies, Environmental Planning, GIS and Remote Sensing applications. He has guided scholars on diverse themes of societal relevance, besides he is also working on research projects funded by various agencies. He has published in reputed indexed and peer reviewed national and international journals besides has co-authored books. Prof. Shamim has served as Dean School of Earth & Environmental Sciences and as Head of this Department of University of Kashmir. He has contributed actively in mainstreaming Disaster Management at higher educational level besides being part of some policy formulation initiatives related to Disaster Management, Tourism and Climate Change and sustainable environmental planning at Local and National Level.
Prof. Pervez Ahmed	Professor	<i>Prof. Pervez Ahmed</i> has obtained his Master's and Doctorate Degrees in Geography from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and has more than two decades of experience of teaching/research at this Department. His research interests are Environmental Geography, Cryospheric studies, Climate Change, Watershed Management and Remote Sensing Applications. Prof. Ahmed's research thrust area is Himalayan Region especially Northwestern Himalayas. He has successfully completed number of major research projects including those funded by SERB Division, DST, Govt. of India, UGC and NCPOR, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India. He has published more than 100 research articles and book chapters in reputed national and international journals, showcasing his significant contributions to Earth and Environmental Sciences. Prof. Pervez is also member of the Focused Glacial Lake Outburst Monitoring Committee (FGMC) constituted by the Govt. of J&K. He has previously served as Director, North Campus of the University and currently he is Head, Department of Geography & Disaster Management of the University of Kashmir.
Prof. G. M. Rather	Professor	<i>Prof. G.M. Rather</i> has obtained his Master's and Doctorate Degrees in Geography from University of Kashmir and has more than 25 years of experience of teaching/research at this Department. His research interests are Geography of Health, Geographical Thought and Political Geography. His research thrust areas are mountain regions of Kashmir Himalaya. He has successfully completed three research projects duly funded by ICSSR and UGC Govt. of India. He has published more than 60 research articles and book chapters in reputed national and international journals, demonstrating his significant contributions to Environment and Health.
Dr. Javeed Ahmad Rather	Associate Professor	<i>Dr. Javeed Ahmad Rather</i> has obtained his Master's and Doctorate Degrees in Geography from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and has more than 15 years of experience in teaching and research in the Department. His research interests are interdisciplinary more broadly in the area of Human Geography, Agricultural Geography, Environmental Geography, Disaster Studies and Remote Sensing & GIS Applications. Dr. Javeed's research thrust area is J & K and Ladakh areas of North India. He has successfully completed a number of Research Projects funded by ICSSR, New Delhi. He has published more than 50 research papers and book chapters in reputed national and international journals, besides has presented and participated in more than 100 conferences and seminars.
Dr. Mohd. Shafi Bhat	Associate Professor	<i>Dr. Mohammed Shafi Bhat</i> has obtained his Master's, M. Phil. & Ph.D in Geography from University of Kashmir and has over 16 years of experience of teaching/research in the Department of Geography and Disaster Management, University of Kashmir Srinagar. He has also completed PGDDM from IGNOU New Delhi. His research interests include Environmental Geography, Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation, Disaster Risk Reduction & Agriculture Economics. His thrust area of research is Northwestern Himalayan Region. He has successfully completed one major research project funded by ICSSR, Govt. of India. He has published more than 50 research articles and book chapters in reputed national and international journals with high impact factor, showcasing his substantial contributions to Earth and Environmental Sciences. He has presented papers and participated in more than 100 conferences and seminars.
Dr. Akhtar Alam	Assistant Professor	<i>Dr. Akhtar Alam</i> has attained PhD in Geography and he is presently Assistant Professor in Disaster Management. His research work revolves around environmental change, geomorphology, natural hazards, and disaster risk. Application of Earth Observation (EO) satellite data, Geographic Information System (GIS), Global Positioning System (GPS) and Environmental Modeling is central to his work. Recently (2019-2021), he worked as Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction (IRDR), University College London (UCL), United Kingdom in a project supported by the Royal Society. His role in the project was to use satellite remote sensing and modeling approaches to track the complex issues that arise from natural hazards in developing nations. He has done multiple research projects supported by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), University Grants Commission (UGC), and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) Government of India. He recently completed a project on hurricane risk in the Caribbean region sponsored by Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), UK. Dr. Alam is also Coordinator for Admissions of Foreign Students at the University of Kashmir.
Dr. Farooq Ahmad Dar	Assistant Professor	<i>Dr. Farooq Ahmad Dar</i> has Masters degree in Applied Geology from University of Kashmir, Srinagar and qualified CSIR-NET and CSIR-JRF. He did his PhD from CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute Hyderabad and University of Hyderabad India in 2014. He has published more than 25 research papers, review papers, book chapters, etc. in reputed national and international journals. Dr. Dar is Assistant Professor and currently teaches PG courses on Geography and Disaster Management at University of Kashmir. He is a member of various academic and research organizations and journal editorial boards. His research interests are wide and open to collaboration on wide topics of hydrogeology, hydrochemistry, environmental issues, stable isotopes, groundwater management, vulnerability, climate change, anthropogenic impacts, RS and GIS, etc.
Dr. Gaggan Kumar	Assistant Professor	<i>Dr. Gaggan Kumar</i> has obtained both his Master's and Doctorate Degrees in Geography from University of Jammu (J&K) and qualified UGC NET-JRF and JKSLET reflecting his academic proficiency. He has over six years of teaching as well as research experience at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level and has published over fifteen research papers in national and international journals and participated in various conferences. He has mentored and guided more than ten postgraduate dissertations. With a focus on interdisciplinary areas, his research interests focus on multiple domains such as Population Studies, Social Geography, Climate Variability, Climate Change and Environmental Geography.

Contractual Assistant Professors

Name	Qualification	Specialization
Dr. Zahoor Ul Islam 	Ph.D., NET, PGDDM, PDGI	Environmental Geology, Risk , Disaster Resilience & Climate Risk Management
Dr. Shanawaz Ahmad Baba 	Ph.D., NET, PGDDM, PGCGI	Urban Environment, Social Geography, Medical Geography, Agriculture & Rural Geography & Disaster Studies
Dr. Hakim Farooq Ahmad Shah 	M. Phil, Ph.D., NET, PGDDM, PGDCI	Hydrology, Environmental Change, Geomorphology, Watershed Management, Natural Hazards, Disaster Risk studies, Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS & Total Station
Dr. Imran Khan 	Ph.D.	Paleoclimate, Glaciology, Remote Sensing & GIS, Disaster Economics & Psychosocial Studies
Dr. Mohd. Waseem Naikoo 	Ph.D., SET, NET, JRF	Urban & Economic Development, Urban Climate, Environmental change & Applications of Geospatial tools



Department of Geography & Disaster Management
(DST-FIST and UGC-SAP Assisted Department)
(Year of Establishment 1979)



Achievements & Recognitions

EXTRAMURAL FUNDING

Funding Agency/Programme	Duration	Funds in Lakhs (INR)	Status
Department of Science & Technology (DST-FIST)	2007-12	35	Completed
University Grants Commission (UGC SAP- DRS I)	2010-15	95	Completed
University Grants Commission (UGC SAP- DRS II)	2016-21	68	Completed
Total Fund	2007-21	198 Lakh (INR)	

RESEARCH PROJECTS

S. No.	Name of the PI/Co-PI	Title	Funding Agency	Grant in lakhs	Sanction Period	Status
01	Prof. M. Sultan Bhat	Assessment of Anthropogenic Impact on Land use Dynamics in Lidder Catchment of Kashmir Valley	ICSSR, Govt. of India	07.09	2010-2012	Completed
02	PI: Prof. M.Sultan Bhat Prof. Pervez Ahmed	Snow cover and Glacial Geomorphological Investigation of Nehnar glacier, Sind Valley, Jammu and Kashmir	DST Govt. of India	21.47	2012-2014	Completed
03	Dr. G. M. Rather	Geo-chemical Environment and related Health problems in north Kashmir Himalayas	UGC, Govt. of India	08.41	2012-2014	Completed
04	Dr. G. M. Rather	Assessment of Malnutrition among children- A macro level study Gujars in great Kashmir Himalayan Range	ICSSR, Govt. of India	06.68	2013-2015	Completed
05	Prof. Shamim A. Shah	Sustainable Environmental Planning of Leh Town-an insight study on Solid waste Management	UGC, Govt. of India	12.50	2014-2019	Completed
06	Dr. Harmeet Singh	Micro -level Planning for Sustainable Dairy Development in Kashmir Valley	UGC, Govt. of India	15.50	2014-2015	Completed
07	Prof. M. Sultan Bhat Dr. Akhtar Alam	Flood Hazard Evaluation & Vulnerability Assessment of Upper Jhelum Flood Plain in Kashmir Valley	MoES Govt. of India	60.81	2015-2018	Completed
08	Prof. I. A. Mayer	GIS based Atlas of Human Diseases in Kashmir Valley	DST , Govt. of India	15.00	2015-2016	Completed
09	Prof. M. Sultan Bhat Dr. Akhtar Alam	Climate and Land use / Lland cover (LULC) changes: threats to Himalayan Biodiversity	UGC, Govt. of India	50.00	2016-2021	Completed
10	Prof. M. Sultan Bhat Dr. Akhtar Alam	Dynamics of Cropping Pattern and its Implications on Food Security of J&K-A Spatio -Temporal Analysis	ICSSR, Govt. of India	25.00	2016-2021	Completed
11	Dr. Farooq Ahmad Dar	OSL dating, Carbon isotope and Magnetic susceptibility studies of Lacustrine Sediments of Leh, Ladakh India: Implication on past climate changes in Himalayan region	UGC, Govt. of India	10	2017-2019	Completed
12	Dr. G. M. Rather Dr. Javeed Ahmad Rather Dr. Mohd. Shafi Bhat	Assessment of quality of life of Native Ethnic Tribe of Cold-desert Leh, Ladakh	ICSSR, Govt. of India	06.45	2018-2021	Completed
13	Prof. Pervez Ahmed	Response of North Western Himalayan Glaciers to Climate Change: a case study from Jhelum basin	MoES, Govt. of India	32 .23	2019-2020	Completed
14	Dr. Akhtar Alam (Co-PI)	Multi-hazard Hurricane and Epidemic Risk Assessment for a small Caribbean Island Developing State (Dominica)	Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), United Kingdom	96.00	2020-2021	Completed
15	Mir Sumira (Ph.D. Student)	"Enhancing Disaster Resilience in Mountain Geographies through Institutionalizing a Multi Stakeholder Network, Processes and Mechanisms".	Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, India (CDRI)	12.75	2023	Ongoing
16	Dr. Javeed Ahmad Rather	An Evaluation of Self-Help groups under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna – NRLM in Budgam and Ganderbal Districts of UT of J&K.	ICSSR, Govt. of India	05.00	2023	Ongoing
17	Prof. M. Sultan Bhat (Co-PI)	The Storage, Transport, and Chemical Evolution of Infiltrating Water in Critical Zone , Western Himalaya	MoES Govt. of India	200.65	2024	Ongoing
Total Fund				577.55 Lakh (INR)		



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Lab. Infrastructure & Learning Resources

Remote Sensing and GIS Lab		
Software/Equipments/Data	Make/Model	Number/Quantity
Imagine (2014)	Erdas	05 Licenses
Map Info Professional (9.3)	Map Info	10 Licenses
Arc GIS (10.6.1)	ESRI	02 Licenses
Large Size (60 inch) plotter	HP/Z6200	01
A0 Scanner	Vidar/Surveyor 600	01
Computers with LAN	IBM/HIGH Configuration	50
Server	HIGH Configuration	01
Satellite Data	Multi-Sensor	Database
Advance Surveying Lab.		
Software/Equipments	Make/Model	Number/Quantity
Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS)	Licca-Zeno 10	01 (Single Frequency)
Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS)	Trimble-Geoxt 2008 Series	01 (Single Frequency)
RTKGPS	Trimble (R4)	01
Total Station	Topcon-GTS230N Series (DOS)	01
Total Station	Topcon-GPT 7500 (Windows)	01
Total Station	FOIF	04
Total Station	Satlab Geo Solutions/SLT 12	03
Telescopic Theodolite	—	15
Computers	IBM/High Configuration	18
Othere Learning Resources		
Books	-----	8260
LED Screen (70 inches)	Sharp	01
DLP	Sharp	03
OHP	Crystal	05
Smart Board (75 inch) along with Camera & Speakers	Peoplelink	01
Field /Research Support Equipments		
Handheld GPS	Garmin, Nautiz X6/Trimble Juno 3	25 (Portable)
Video and Still Cameras	Canon	04
Laser Distance Meter	LDM-100	02
Brunton Compass	-----	10
Large Size Tents	-----	22
Sleeping Bags	-----	100
CPR	-----	04
Tents	-----	09
Electric Sieve Shaker	-----	01
Soil Corer	-----	01
Portable Water Analysis Kit	-----	01
pH Meter, Current Meter, Thrmometer	-----	01 each