ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name: Arindam Das	***Your Organization:*** Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	***Date of report:*** 24.06.2026
Conference Title: 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE)	***Location of Conference:*** Vienna, Austria	***Dates of Conference:*** 14.06.2026 to 19.06.2026

What you learned:

Participating in the 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026) in Vienna, Austria, was a highly enriching experience. The conference provided valuable insights into contemporary developments in geotechnical engineering, with particular emphasis on geotechnical earthquake engineering, soil–structure interaction, sustainability, energy geotechnics, advanced numerical modelling, and emerging monitoring technologies. Attending keynote, state-of-the-art, and honour lectures delivered by internationally renowned experts enhanced my understanding of recent advances in seismic resilience, earthquake-induced geotechnical hazards, and performance-based engineering approaches. The conference also highlighted innovative applications of machine learning, sensing technologies, and sustainable ground improvement techniques for modern infrastructure challenges. A visit to the Terzaghi Archive at TU Wien offered a unique perspective on the historical foundations of soil mechanics and the evolution of geotechnical engineering over the past century. Interactions with researchers and practitioners from around the world further broadened my technical outlook and provided valuable opportunities for future research collaboration and knowledge exchange.

People you met:

The conference provided an excellent platform to interact with internationally renowned researchers, distinguished academicians, and leading professionals from the global geotechnical engineering community. Notable among them were:

1. Dr. Marc Ballouz, out-going President, ISSMGE.
2. Prof. Lyesse Laloui, incoming President, ISSMGE, chair professor at EPFL, Switzerland.
3. Dr. Anil Joseph, President, IGS.
4. Prof. Dietmar Adam, Scientific Chair, 21st ICSMGE and TU Wien, Austria.
5. Prof. Krishna R. Reddy, University of Illinois Chicago, USA.
6. Prof. Steven L. Kramer, University of Washington, USA.
7. Mr. Sergei Terzaghi, A O'Sullivan & Associates Ltd.
8. Prof. Gioacchino (Cino) Viggiani, Université Grenoble Alpes, France.
9. Prof. Anand J. Puppala, Texas A&M University, USA.
10. Prof. Ikuo Towhata, The University of Tokyo, Japan.

These interactions significantly enhanced my understanding of current research trends and professional practices in geotechnical engineering while also providing opportunities for future academic networking and collaboration.

Main features of conference:

The 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026) was held at the Austria Center Vienna, Austria, and was organized by the Austrian Geotechnical Society in collaboration with the Austrian Society for Geomechanics under the auspices of the ISSMGE. The conference commemorated the 100th anniversary of Karl Terzaghi's pioneering contribution to soil mechanics and was centered on the theme "Geotechnical Challenges in a Changing Environment." The event brought together thousands of delegates from academia, research organizations, government agencies, and industry from across the world. The technical programme featured plenary sessions, state-of-the-art lectures, invited lectures, technical committee honour lectures, parallel technical sessions, workshops, and poster presentations covering a broad spectrum of geotechnical engineering topics. Key themes included geotechnical earthquake engineering, sustainability, energy geotechnics, offshore geotechnics, ground improvement, underground construction, advanced monitoring technologies, and soil-structure interaction. The conference also included technical visits, industry exhibitions, networking events, and the inauguration of the Terzaghi Archive at TU Wien, providing participants with unique opportunities to engage with both the historical foundations and future directions of geotechnical engineering.

Your comments on the conference:

The 21st ICSMGE was exceptionally well organized and provided a unique platform for knowledge exchange among researchers, practitioners, and industry leaders from across the globe. I was privileged to present my research work titled "Advanced regional ground motion prediction equations for the Northeastern region of India" and received valuable feedback from experts working in geotechnical earthquake engineering and seismic hazard assessment. The technical sessions, honour lectures, and plenary discussions offered deep insights into recent advances in earthquake engineering, soil-structure interaction, sustainability, energy geotechnics, and emerging monitoring technologies. A particularly memorable aspect of the conference was the celebration of the centenary of modern soil mechanics and the opportunity to visit the Terzaghi Archive at TU Wien, which provided a unique perspective on the evolution of geotechnical engineering over the past century. Interactions with internationally renowned experts, including leaders of ISSMGE and pioneers in geotechnical earthquake engineering, were highly inspiring and broadened my outlook on future research directions. I sincerely thank the organisers, the Austrian Geotechnical Society, ISSMGE, and all supporting institutions for conducting an outstanding conference that fostered technical excellence, professional networking, and international collaboration.

Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:

21st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOIL MECHANICS AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING (ICSMGE 2026), VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026) was held from June 14-19, 2026, at the Austria Center Vienna, Austria. Organized by the Austrian Geotechnical Society and the Austrian Society for Geomechanics under the auspices of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), the conference marked the centenary of Karl Terzaghi's pioneering contributions to modern soil mechanics. The event attracted thousands of delegates from academia, research institutions, government agencies, and industry across the globe.

The conference featured plenary lectures, state-of-the-art lectures, invited lectures, technical committee honour lectures, workshops, and parallel technical sessions covering a broad spectrum of geotechnical engineering topics. Key themes included geotechnical earthquake engineering, sustainability in geotechnics, energy geotechnics, offshore geotechnics, ground improvement, underground construction, soil–structure interaction, and emerging monitoring and sensing technologies. Distinguished lectures delivered by internationally renowned experts provided valuable insights into the latest scientific developments and engineering practices.

A major highlight of ICSMGE 2026 was the celebration of 100 years of soil mechanics through a special tribute to Karl Terzaghi. The inauguration of the Terzaghi Archive at TU Wien, showcasing original equipment, drawings, and historical documents associated with Terzaghi's work, offered participants a unique opportunity to appreciate the historical foundations and evolution of geotechnical engineering. The conference also hosted a large technical exhibition featuring leading geotechnical companies, research organizations, and technology providers presenting innovative solutions for contemporary engineering challenges.

The event strongly promoted collaboration among researchers, practitioners, and young professionals through networking sessions, technical committee activities, workshops, and social events. As a participant from India, I had the opportunity to present my research findings, engage in discussions with leading experts in geotechnical earthquake engineering and seismic hazard assessment, and establish valuable international connections. Interactions with distinguished researchers and leaders of ISSMGE broadened my technical perspective and provided insights into future research directions and collaborative opportunities.

ICSMGE 2026 was an outstanding platform for knowledge exchange and professional development, successfully bridging the rich heritage of geotechnical engineering with its future challenges and innovations. I sincerely thank the organizers, ISSMGE, and all supporting institutions for conducting an exceptional conference and providing an inspiring environment for learning, networking, and international collaboration.

Photographs from Conference:

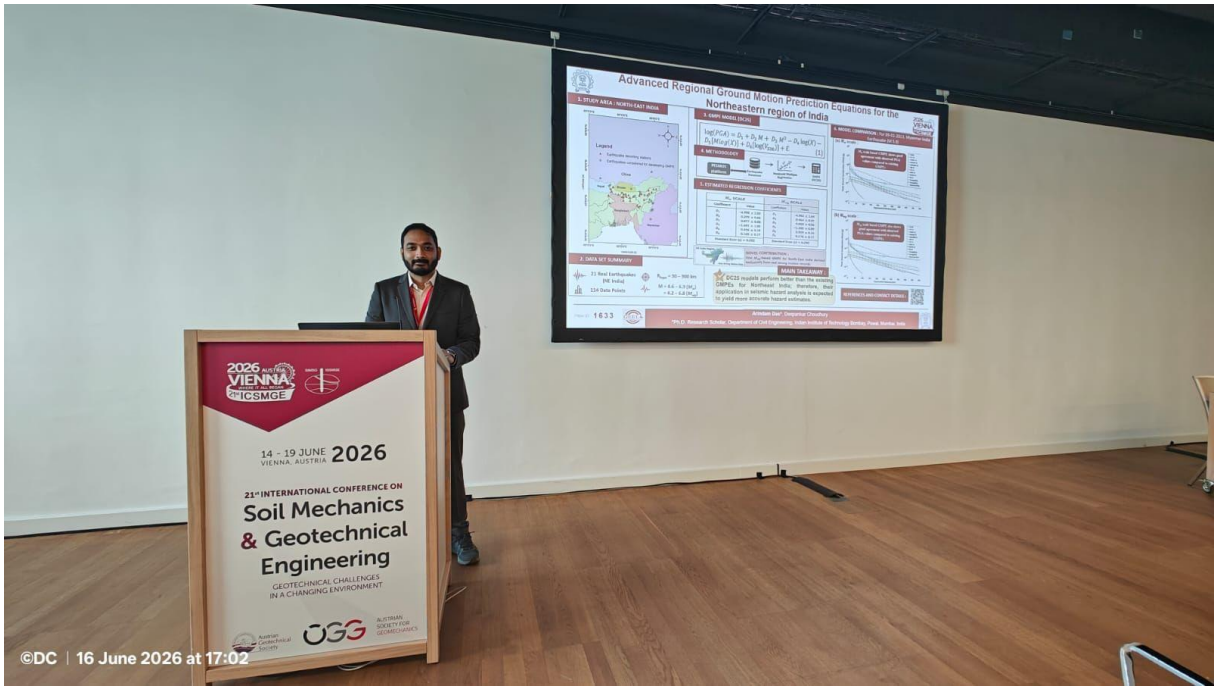


Fig. 1. My photograph at the 21st ICSMGE, 2026.



Fig. 2. Oral presentation of my research paper during "Young Engineers" technical session at 21st ICSMGE 2026.

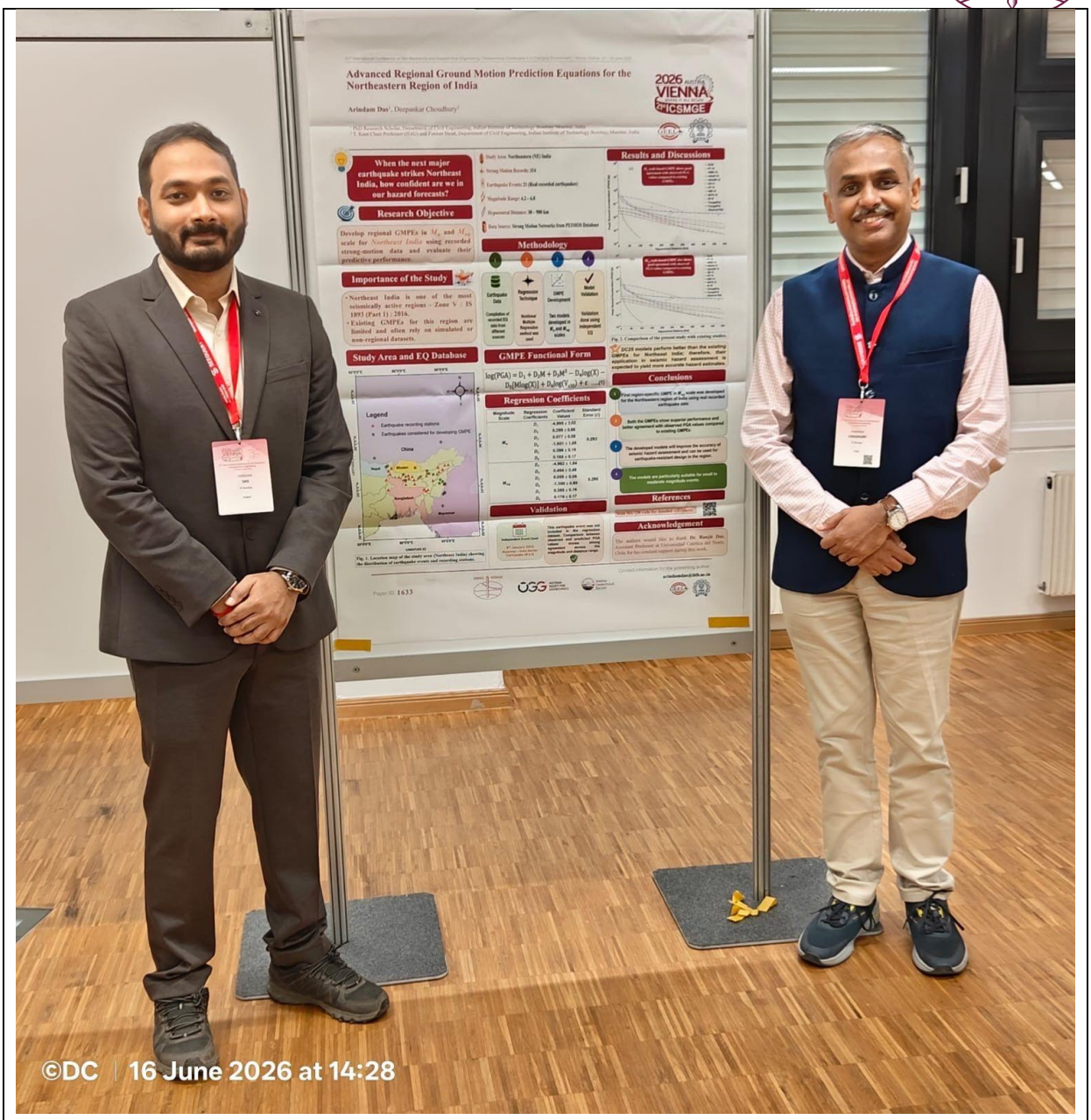


Fig. 3. Photograph with my co-author and PhD supervisor (Prof. Deepankar Choudhury) during my poster presentation at 21st ICSMGE 2026, Vienna, Austria.



Fig. 4. Visit to TU Wien during ICSMGE 2026 to explore the Karl Terzaghi Archive and historic geotechnical laboratory.



Fig. 5. Visit to the Karl Terzaghi Archive, showcasing the historic laboratory and original equipment associated with the development of modern soil mechanics.



Fig. 6. Photograph with the outgoing ISSMGE President while attending the TC 207 meeting and lecture session during 21st ICSMGE 2026, Vienna, Austria.



Fig. 7. Group photograph with Indian delegates attending ICSMGE 2026 at the Austria Center Vienna, Austria.