

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **The BGS signs Memoranda of Understanding with top Indian research institute**

**The BGS has signed memoranda of understanding (MoU) alongside King's College London (KCL) with the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (Amrita). The three institutions will be collaborating on landslide research activities that will mutually benefit India and the UK.**

The main aim is to develop regional thresholds for landslide warnings from the real-time data of Amrita's field deployments in the Himalayas and the Western Ghats.

Landslides are considered the third most deadly natural disaster on Earth. Four hundred billion dollars are spent every year on landslide disaster management. Multiple collaborative and interdisciplinary research initiatives play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges.

Further to the ongoing collaborative activities between Amrita and the BGS such as the [LANDSLIP](#) project, an MoU was signed between the two institutions confirming their mutual interest in developing and reinforcing their cooperation in the fields of earth sciences, mineral prospecting and disaster management. Dr Maneesha V Ramesh, dean of international programs and director of the Center for Wireless Networks and Applications, Amrita, and Prof Christopher Luton, head of legal services at the BGS, signed the MoU on 14 February 2019.

The MoU is also an effort to improve cooperation between the United Kingdom and the Republic of India with the intent of reinforcing and strengthening scientific links between the two countries. Dr Ramesh said: 'It is a prestigious moment for Amrita, being the first university in India to have signed an MoU with the British Geological Survey. We are looking forward to different forms of cooperation and collaborative activities under this MoU such as education, training and human resource development in the fields of landslide monitoring and research.'

'Some specific areas of cooperation being focused on under this MoU include susceptibility, hazard and risk mapping; early warnings for landslide hazards; stakeholder communication or dissemination for early warning information (e.g. geohazards); geoscience information, and related informatics associated with landslide hazards.'

**\*Ends\***



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**Notes for Editors**

The following are available for interview:

For additional information go to: [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

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