Brief Report
on
47th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS 2026)

Theme: Remote Sensing for Future Earth: Innovation, Inclusion and Impact

Date and Venue: October 12th to 16th 2026, Taj Vivanta, New Delhi, India

Sameer Saran, Chair, Local Organizing Committee

The 47th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS 2026) was held in New Delhi over five days, bringing together scientists, researchers, government agencies, industry representatives, and students from India and abroad. Jointly organized by Asian Association of Remote Sensing (AARS), Indian Society of Remote Sensing (ISRS) and Indian Society of Geomatics (ISG), the conference served as a platform for exchanging scientific knowledge, sharing operational experiences, presenting research advancements, and fostering collaborations in Earth observation and geospatial science. India has previously hosted ACRS in 1985, 1994, and 2017, reflecting its longstanding institutional commitment and significant technical contributions to the regional remote sensing community. With participation from over 1,000 delegates representing 20 countries (India, China, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey). ACRS 2026 brought together leading scientists, technologists, policymakers, and industry professionals from across Asia and beyond, establishing itself as a significant international event in the field of remote sensing in 2026.

Highlights of the International Conference, ACRS 2026

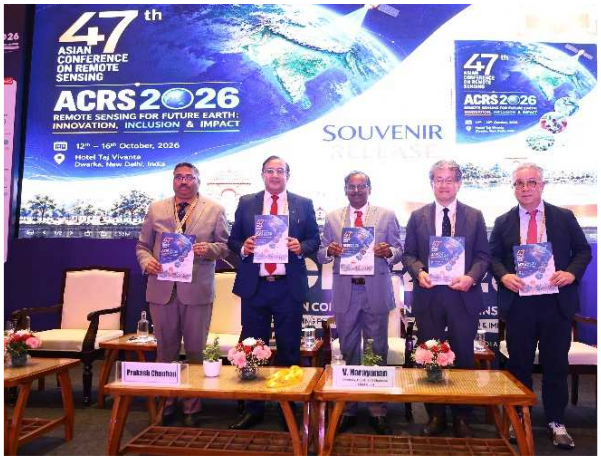
- More than **1,000 delegates from 20 countries**
- Approximately **500 presentations** were delivered during the conference- including **315** oral presentations, **100** poster presentations, **19** industry presentations across three sessions, **45** ministry presentations across nine sessions, and **12 plenary presentations**.
- Total 93 sessions, including **59 technical sessions** with over 315 oral and 100 poster presentations

- **12 plenary sessions** featuring invited speakers
- Prestigious **ISRS and ISG lectures**
- **Special sessions, ministry-led sessions and industry sessions**
- **Technical exhibition** and a dedicated **India Startup Pavilion**
- **WebCon and ISRS I-Con** Awards











Glimpses of Inauguration Ceremony ACRS 2026

2. Technical Programme

The technical programme covered 8 themes including Earth Observation for Sustainable Earth; Earth System Dynamics and Disaster Risk Intelligence; Advanced Image Analytics and GeoAI; Sensors, Platforms and Calibration; Emerging and Agentic Technologies; Geospatial Services for Societal Impact; and GNSS Applications. Research spanned agricultural monitoring, forest and water resources, climate change, glaciers, disaster management, urban development, infrastructure and environmental governance.

Key emphasis areas included:

- Integration of multi-temporal and multi-sensor observations
- Fusion of satellite data with UAV, LiDAR, in-situ and ancillary data
- Machine learning and deep learning for advanced geospatial analysis

- Cloud-based processing, foundation models, digital twins and agentic AI

Collectively, the proceedings indicated a shift from conventional thematic mapping towards integrated, AI-enabled geospatial intelligence capable of supporting monitoring, forecasting and decision-making.

3. Industry, Technical Exhibition and Startup Participation

Industry participation was a key highlight of ACRS 2026, reflecting the growing role of the private sector in advancing remote sensing, Earth observation, and geospatial technologies. The industry sessions provided companies with a platform to showcase their work, present future plans, share technological advancements, and engage with researchers, government agencies, and prospective partners. The technical exhibition, featuring more than 45 stalls, enabled delegates to explore innovative products, advanced technologies, and practical solutions, while facilitating direct interaction between technology developers and end users.

A dedicated India Startup Pavilion was another important feature of the conference, providing Indian startups in geospatial technologies and related fields an opportunity to showcase their innovations and connect with established organisations, researchers, and international delegates. These initiatives fostered networking, encouraged knowledge exchange, and opened avenues for collaboration. Collectively, they strengthened industry–academia partnerships, promoted innovation, and supported the wider adoption of geospatial solutions to address real-world challenges. solutions.









Visit to Technical Exhibition at ACRS 2026

4. Dedicated Sessions and Ministry Session

ACRS 2026 also featured dedicated sessions highlighting the work and contributions of key national institutions and ministries. These sessions provided a valuable platform to discuss specific applications, share operational experiences, and exchange insights across organisations. The special and ministry-led sessions, in particular, helped bring institutional initiatives, achievements, and priorities to the wider remote sensing community. It is hoped that the discussions and deliberations will foster stronger inter-

institutional collaboration and create new opportunities to harness Earth observation technologies for addressing real-world challenges.

5. Poster Presentations and Young Researchers

The participation of around 100 poster presenters highlighted the strong capabilities of young researchers in applying advanced technologies across diverse thematic areas. The presentations demonstrated promising applications of emerging tools and techniques to address scientific and practical challenges. The organisers also emphasised the importance of strengthening students' understanding of the fundamental physical processes underlying their research, enabling them to use artificial intelligence (AI) more effectively and develop innovative, scientifically grounded solutions.

6. Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony featured the ACRS 2026 final report by Dr Sameer Saran, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, followed by addresses from the Dr Kohei Cho, AARS General Secretary, Prof Ji Sang Park, the ISPRS Congress Director, Dr Prakash Chauhan (Director, NRSC, ISRO, and President, ISRS) and Shri D. K. Singh (Director, URSC, ISRO). The ceremony also included the presentation of AARS, ISRS, ISG and other awards, the announcement of ACRS 2027, and an address by the Chief Guest, Dr Shailesh Nayak (Director, NIAS, and Chairman, International Advisory Committee).

The conference underscored the need to bridge research innovation and operational implementation through stronger collaboration among research institutions, government agencies, industry and end users. Delegates were encouraged to sustain the connections made at ACRS 2026 through joint research and institutional partnerships.

Following the conference, the ISPRS STEP Summer School on GeoAI for Future Earth is scheduled for 17–21 October at Amity University, with several ACRS delegates participating. It was also officially announced that the 48th ACRS will be hosted in Bangkok, Thailand.



Group photograph

The organizers gratefully acknowledge AARS, ISRS, ISG and NRSC, together with the plenary and invited speakers, session chairs, reviewers, authors, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, sub-committees and all delegates whose contributions made ACRS 2026 a success.