

Researchers from IIT Mandi and Mandi district administration received the 2020 Skoch Award for developing a landslide warning system

Researchers from IIT Mandi and Mandi district administration won the 2020 gold Skoch Award in the “Safety and Security” category for the landslide monitoring and warning system deployed in Mandi district. Dr. Varun Dutt, Dr. K. V. Uday, and the research team at IIT Mandi were a part of developing and deploying the landslide monitoring system in several locations in the Mandi district. Based on the deployment's success, the DC Mandi office team and IIT Mandi researchers applied for this award in 2020. The reviewers of the award presentation appreciated the developed system and gave some suggestions for taking it forward.

The SKOCH Group has instituted India’s highest independent civilian honors in governance, finance, technology, economics and the social sector. The award is presented for the extraordinary achievements in contributing to society.

Mandi Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Rugved Thakur, said, “the system was developed after a bus was swept away in a massive landslide in Padhar area. The administration felt the need for a landslide warning system and collaborated with IIT Mandi. It was after concerted efforts that a low cost and effective device was developed, which could alert people about the occurrence of a landslide in advance.”