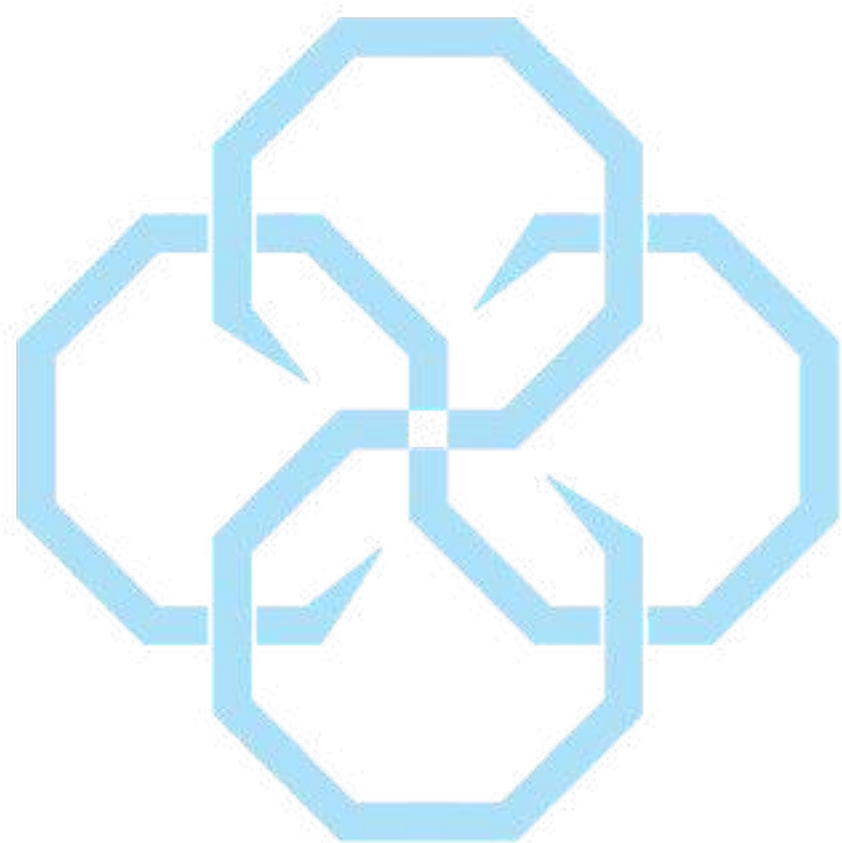




SAU
SOUTH ASIAN
UNIVERSITY

SAU CONNECT

Monthly Newsletter
March 2026



By
Prof. K. K. Aggarwal
 President, South Asian University



WELCOME TO SAU

South Asian University (SAU) is an international university established by the eight SAARC member nations to foster regional understanding and provide quality higher education. Founded in 2008 and located in Maidan Garhi, South Delhi, SAU offers undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programs in fields Mathematics, Life Sciences & Biotechnology, Economics, Social Sciences, Legal Studies, Management, Asian Studies, Chemical Sciences, Arts and Design, Climate Change, Physical Sciences, Computer Science and Engineering, aiming to equip students as future regional leaders.



PROF. K. K. AGGARWAL

President

It is a pleasure to share this edition of *SAU Connect*, reflecting the dynamic academic and outreach engagements at South Asian University.

The past month witnessed meaningful progress in strengthening global collaborations, including our interaction with the **American Institute of Indian Studies**, aimed at enhancing academic exchange and research opportunities. Participation in forums such as the **NXT Summit 2026** further highlighted the importance of dialogue on innovation, governance, and international cooperation. I also had the opportunity to engage with the media, sharing SAU's vision of a future-ready education system grounded in interdisciplinary learning and critical thinking.

Equally encouraging is the vibrant campus life, with conferences, lectures, and student-led initiatives such as **25 Under 25**, **BioZest 2026**, and celebrations around **Women in Science**, reflecting a spirit of creativity, collaboration, and inclusivity.

As we continue this journey, I invite our community to remain engaged in advancing knowledge, partnerships, and regional cooperation.



From the Editorial Team

This month's issue of SAU Connect brings together a dynamic blend of academic excellence, global engagement, and vibrant campus life at South Asian University, offering a glimpse into the University's diverse **academic environment, research culture, and the opportunities that shape the student experience.**

March was marked by a series of **distinguished lectures, international conferences, and collaborative dialogues**, reflecting SAU's growing presence in global academic and policy conversations. Faculty members contributed to discussions on critical themes such as climate change, sustainability, artificial intelligence, international relations, and governance, underscoring the University's commitment to interdisciplinary and research-driven learning.

The issue also highlights outreach and engagement initiatives, with faculty and scholars representing SAU at prestigious national and international platforms. From keynote addresses and panel discussions to research presentations and policy dialogues, these engagements reflect the University's expanding academic footprint and its role in shaping contemporary discourse across disciplines.

Campus life remained equally vibrant with events such as **25 under 25, BioZest 2026**, celebrating "**Women in Science**," along with a range of student-led academic and **cultural and sports activities** that foster creativity, collaboration, and innovation. These experiences reflect a holistic learning environment where academic pursuits are complemented by opportunities for cultural expression and community engagement.

The month also saw continued efforts towards strengthening institutional partnerships and public engagement, alongside notable achievements by students and scholars. Together, these developments reflect a thriving academic community grounded in collaboration, diversity, and intellectual exchange.

As always, SAU Connect aims to document and celebrate the many initiatives and accomplishments that define the University. We hope this issue offers readers a meaningful insight into life at SAU and the spirit of learning and engagement that continues to shape its journey.

Admission 2026-27



At a time when higher education is undergoing a profound transformation—driven by rapid technological advancements and the growing need for interdisciplinary solutions—**South Asian University (SAU)** stands out as a pioneering institution redefining academic excellence in the region. With its distinctive international character and strong emphasis on research and innovation, SAU offers an academic ecosystem that goes beyond conventional learning, preparing students to engage with complex global challenges.

Reimagining Higher Education Across South Asia

Established by the Governments of the SAARC nations, the University embodies a shared regional vision of knowledge creation and collaboration. It brings together talented students and faculty from across South Asia, fostering a vibrant intellectual community rooted in diversity, dialogue, and cross-cultural exchange.

With admissions for the academic year 2026–27 currently underway, SAU continues to strengthen its academic offerings in line with emerging trends and industry demands. The University offers a wide spectrum of programmes—from cutting-edge fields such as artificial intelligence, data science, and quantum computing to critical areas like climate change, law, media, and the social sciences—ensuring both academic depth and real-world relevance.

As deadlines draw closer, this Admission Special presents a structured, department-wise overview of programmes, highlighting the distinctive strengths and opportunities within each academic unit.

To help prospective students navigate the **wide range of academic opportunities at South Asian University**, the University's programmes are presented below in a **department-wise format**, along with their respective undergraduate, postgraduate, integrated, and doctoral offerings. Each department reflects SAU's commitment to academic rigor, interdisciplinary learning, and research excellence, while catering to diverse interests and emerging career pathways.

Faculty of Computer Science & Engineering

At the heart of today's digital revolution lies computer science—and SAU's Faculty of Computer Science & Engineering stands at the forefront of this transformation. The Faculty offers a comprehensive range of programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels, with a strong focus on future-facing specialisations.

Programmes Offered:

- **UG / Integrated:** BTech Computer Science & Engineering (CSE), BTech CSE (Spl. in AI & ML), BTech CSE (Spl. in Quantum Computing), BTech CSE (Spl. in Business Systems & Intelligence), BTech CSE (Spl. in Cloud Computing), BTech CSE (Spl. in Cybersecurity), BTech CSE (Spl. in Data Science & AI), B.Tech. (Mathematics & Computing)
- **Dual Degree** BTech–MTech CSE (with spl. options)
- **PG:** MTech CSE, MSc Computer Science, MCA
- **PhD:** Computer Science & Engineering

With specialisations in AI, data science, and quantum technologies, the department prepares students for careers in some of the most dynamic and high-demand sectors globally.

Faculty of Mathematical Sciences

Mathematics remains the foundation of scientific inquiry and technological advancement. At SAU, the Faculty of Mathematics blends theoretical depth with computational application.

Programmes Offered:

- **Integrated BS-MS in Mathematics**-As part of the Integrated BS-MS (Interdisciplinary Sciences) Programme leading to BS-MS Mathematics
- **PG:** MSc Applied Mathematics
- **PhD:** Mathematics

With specialisations in AI, data science, and quantum technologies, the faculty prepares students for careers in some of the most dynamic and high-demand sectors globally.

Faculty of Life Sciences & Biotechnology

The Faculty of Life Sciences & Biotechnology (FLSB) focuses on addressing some of the most pressing global challenges—health, environment, and sustainability

Programmes Offered:

- **Integrated BS-MS (Biological Sciences)**- As part of the Integrated BS-MS (Interdisciplinary Sciences) Programme leading to BS-MS Biological Sciences
- **PG:** MSc Biotechnology (1 year/ 2 year)
- **PhD:** Biotechnology

Research-driven learning with applications in health sciences, environmental sustainability, and biotechnology innovation.

Faculty of Faculty of Chemical Sciences

At the core of scientific discovery and innovation lies chemical science—and SAU's Faculty of Chemical Sciences plays a vital role in advancing knowledge in this fundamental discipline. With a strong emphasis on research and analytical rigor, the Faculty contributes to areas ranging from materials science to environmental and industrial applications. The Faculty offers doctoral programmes that are designed to foster critical inquiry, experimental expertise, and impactful research in emerging areas of chemistry.

Programmes Offered:

- **Integrated BS-MS (Chemical Sciences)-** As part of the Integrated BS-MS (Interdisciplinary Sciences) Programme leading to BS-MS Chemical Sciences
- **PhD:** Chemical Sciences

Research-driven learning focused on advancing knowledge in chemical sciences, with applications in materials, environmental sustainability, and industrial innovation.

Faculty of Physical Sciences

At the frontier of understanding the fundamental laws of nature lies SAU's Faculty of Physical Sciences, dedicated to advancing knowledge in physics through rigorous research and scientific inquiry. The Faculty emphasizes theoretical depth and experimental excellence, preparing scholars to contribute to cutting-edge developments in science and technology.

Programmes Offered:

- **UG:** B.Tech. programme
- **Integrated BS-MS:** with specialization in Physics; specialization in Quantum Computing, specialization in Semiconductor Devices; specialization in Biophysics; specialization in Astrophysics and Cosmology; specialization in Accelerators and Detectors; specialization in Nuclear and particle physics
- **PhD:** Physical Sciences

Research-driven learning focused on fundamental physics, with applications in advanced technologies, energy systems, and scientific innovation.

Faculty of Economics

Understanding the dynamics of economies in an increasingly interconnected world is central to SAU's Faculty of Economics, which offers rigorous training in economic theory, policy, and quantitative methods. The Faculty equips students to critically engage with issues of development, trade, and public policy, with a strong focus on regional and global perspectives.

Programmes Offered:

- **PG:** MA Economics
- **PhD:** Economics

Research-driven learning focused on economic analysis and policy, with applications in development, governance, and global economic systems.

Faculty of Social Sciences

Exploring the complexities of societies and human interactions, SAU's Faculty of Social Sciences offers a multidisciplinary approach to understanding social, political, and cultural dynamics. With programmes in sociology and international relations, the Faculty equips students to critically engage with contemporary global and regional challenges.

Programmes Offered:

- **PG:** MA Sociology, MA in Communication
- **PhD:** Sociology

Research-driven learning focused on social and political analysis, with applications in policy, governance, and international relations.

Faculty of Legal Studies

At the intersection of law, governance, and society, SAU's Faculty of Legal Studies offers a comprehensive legal education grounded in both national and international perspectives. The Faculty equips students with a strong foundation in legal principles while fostering critical thinking on issues of justice, policy, and regional cooperation.

Programmes Offered:

- **UG / Integrated:** BA LLB (Hons.), BBA LLB (Hons.)
- **PG:** LLM with Specialisations in International Law; International Trade and Economic Law; International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; and International Law and International Trade and Economic Law
- **PhD:** Law

Research-driven learning focused on advancing knowledge in chemical sciences, with applications in materials, environmental sustainability, and industrial innovation.

Faculty of Management

In an increasingly dynamic and competitive global economy, SAU's Faculty of Management prepares future leaders with a strong foundation in business, strategy, and analytics. The Faculty combines academic rigor with practical insights, equipping students to navigate complex organizational and economic environments.

Programmes Offered:

- **UG / Integrated:** BBA-MBA
- **PG:** MBA, MS Business Analytics
- **PhD:** Management

Research-driven learning focused on business strategy and analytics, with applications in leadership, decision-making, and global management.

Faculty of Arts & Design

At the intersection of creativity, communication, and culture, SAU's Faculty of Arts & Design fosters critical thinking and artistic expression in a rapidly evolving media landscape. The Faculty offers programmes that blend theory and practice, preparing students to engage with contemporary issues through innovative and impactful storytelling.

Programmes Offered:

- **UG:** BA (Hons.) Media, Arts & Design
- **PG:** MA Journalism & Digital Media

Research-driven learning focused on economic analysis and policy, with applications in development, governance, and global economic systems.

Interdisciplinary Centre of Excellence on Climate Change, Green Transition and Sustainability

Addressing one of the most pressing challenges of our time, SAU's Interdisciplinary Centre of Excellence on Climate Change, Green Transition and Sustainability brings together diverse disciplines to study environmental change and sustainable development. The Centre focuses on research, policy, and innovation, equipping students to contribute to climate action and resilience at regional and global levels.

Programmes Offered:

- **PG:** MS in Climate Change and Sustainability
- **PhD:** Climate Change

Research-driven learning focused on climate change and sustainability, with applications in policy, environmental management, and green transitions.

Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies

Bridging the boundaries of traditional disciplines, SAU's Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies offers an integrated approach to learning that combines the natural sciences with computational and analytical methods. The Faculty is designed to equip students with the flexibility and breadth of knowledge required to address complex, real-world problems.

Programmes Offered:

- **Integrated:** BS–MS in Interdisciplinary Sciences

Research-driven learning focused on advancing knowledge in chemical sciences, with applications in materials, environmental sustainability, and industrial innovation.

Faculty of International Relations

In an increasingly interconnected and complex global landscape, SAU's Faculty of International Relations focuses on understanding the dynamics of global politics, diplomacy, and regional cooperation. The Faculty equips students with critical analytical skills and theoretical grounding to engage with contemporary international issues from a South Asian and global perspective.

Programmes Offered:

- **PG:** MA International Relations
- **PhD: International Relations**

Research-driven learning focused on global politics and diplomacy, with applications in international cooperation, policy, and strategic affairs.

Admissions & Key Information

Admissions are offered through two modes:

- Direct Mode: Based on national-level tests such as JEE, CUET, CAT, CLAT, GATE, NET/JRF, etc.
- SAU Entrance Test:
 - India: Center-based
 - SAARC Countries: Proctored online

SAU Entrance Test: 25–26 April 2026

As the admission cycle enters its final phase, aspiring students are encouraged to take the next step towards a transformative academic journey. At South Asian University, education goes beyond classrooms—it becomes a shared regional experience shaped by knowledge, diversity, and collaboration.

Apply: <https://admissions.sau.int/>

BioZest 2026: Celebrating Women in Science

6 March 2026 | South Asian University, New Delhi

The Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology (FLSB) at South Asian University (SAU) proudly hosted BioZest 2026, its annual bioscience festival, with the theme “**Celebrating Women in Science.**” The event highlighted the invaluable contributions of women scientists while inspiring the next generation of researchers to pursue excellence in scientific discovery.

The festival commenced with the ceremonial lamp lighting and a warm welcome by **Prof. Ritu Gaur, Dean, FLSB.** The inaugural session was graced by **Dr. Sneh Bhargava, Former Director and Professor Emeritus, AIIMS,** whose keynote lecture shared her remarkable journey in science and medicine. **Dr. Saroj Aggarwal, Former Professor at IP University,** delivered an inspiring address, followed by the presidential address by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, who emphasised inclusivity, innovation, and collaborative research in the life sciences.



Throughout the day, BioZest 2026 featured student-led oral and poster presentations, fostering knowledge exchange and dialogue in biotechnology and life sciences. Engaging interactive events, including a Science Quiz and Science Tambola, brought energy and friendly competition to the festival, while Rangoli and Painting competitions showcased the creativity and enthusiasm of the SAU community.

The celebrations culminated in a **Cultural Night,** with vibrant performances by FLSB students and a **special appearance by Ashish Singh Chauhan and Mr. Viruddh,** adding a festive spirit and bringing together the SAU community in an evening of music, culture, and camaraderie.



Research and Publications

Student Achievement in Global South IP, Competition Law, and Sustainable Development

Prakriti Parashar, a student of LL.M. (Second Year), along with Jay Wadhwa, a student of LL.M. (First Year), presented their research paper titled “Architecture of Access: Reconciling TRIPS-Based IP, Competition Law, and Sustainable Development in South Asia” at the International Conference on TRIPS and Sustainable Development Goals 2030: Global South Perspectives, organised by the DPIIT-IPR Chair and CIRF at Chanakya National Law University, Patna.

They were **awarded the Best Presenters distinction** at the conference, in recognition of their insightful research and academic contribution.

The paper critically examined the intersection of intellectual property rights, competition law, and sustainable development, with a particular focus on advancing equitable access to knowledge and essential resources across the Global South.

Scholarly Contribution on Deliberative Democracy in Environmental Governance

Dr. Anmol Mukhia of the Faculty of International Studies published a paper titled “Deliberative Democracy in Environmental Governance: Lessons from Japan’s Experience in Managing Pollution” in the Philippine Political Science Journal, a Brill publication indexed in SCOPUS.

The paper explores the role of deliberative democratic processes in shaping environmental governance frameworks, drawing on Japan’s experience in addressing pollution to highlight participatory approaches, policy responsiveness, and institutional learning in environmental decision-making.

Scholarly Contribution on Ethics and Governance in Influencer Marketing

Dr. Ashish Gupta, Senior Associate Professor at the Faculty of Management, South Asian University (an international university established by SAARC nations and supported by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India), along with his research team, published a paper titled “Ethics in Influencer Marketing: A Review, Synthesis, and Research Directions” in the International Journal of Advertising, published by the Advertising Association, UK under the Taylor & Francis Group.

The paper offers a comprehensive review and synthesis of existing literature on influencer marketing ethics, identifying key concerns around transparency, consumer trust, and regulatory gaps, while also outlining future research directions to strengthen ethical standards in digital marketing practices. The journal is indexed in ABDC-A and SCOPUS-Q1, with an impact factor of 5.9.



Achievements

Research Scholar Presents Work at International Studies Association Annual Convention

ek Raj Koirala, a PhD Scholar in the Department of International Relations at the Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, presented his research at the **International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention held in Columbus, Ohio, USA**, from 22 to 25 March 2026.

His work engaged with key debates in international relations, particularly in global governance, disaster policy, and environmental security. At the pre-convention workshop, *"Shaping the Future of International Organization,"* he examined the global diffusion and local translation of earthquake protective action in Nepal. At the main convention, he presented two working papers—*"The Nepali Military and Environmental Security: Discursive and Institutional Response to Climate Threats"* and *"Militarizing Environmental Security? Ethical Dilemmas and Environmental Justice in Nepal."*



PhD Scholar Engages in Global Policy Dialogue through NXT Fellowship

Maiwand Safi, a final-year PhD scholar in International Relations at South Asian University, working under the supervision of Professor Sanjay Chaturvedi, participated in the **NXT Fellowship**, engaging with heads of state, policymakers, parliamentarians, and leading foreign policy experts.

During the fellowship, he contributed to discussions on remapping maritime strategy, emphasizing the need to rethink maritime spaces through the lens of connectivity, strategic narratives, and evolving geopolitical dynamics. His intervention also brought Afghanistan into the conversation, challenging conventional notions of "landlockedness."



Academic Activities

South Asian University successfully conducted a session under its **Medical Series for Public Awareness on “Hernia – Myths and Facts,”** delivered by **Dr. Virinder Kumar Bansal**, who provided focused insights into the clinical aspects of hernia, including its types, causes, early symptoms, risk factors, preventive measures, and surgical treatment options. The session, curated by Dr. Ashwani Kumar and presided over by Hon’ble SAU President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, concluded with an interactive discussion addressing patient concerns and misconceptions, reinforcing the importance of timely diagnosis and evidence-based medical intervention in hernia management.



Public Awareness Lecture on “Hernia – Myths and Facts” under Medical Series



International Women of Courage Summit and Awards 2026

The University, in collaboration with the **All India Council of Human Rights, Liberties & Social Justice**, hosted the **International Women of Courage Summit and Awards 2026**, bringing together distinguished speakers, academics, and students to celebrate women’s leadership, resilience, and contributions across diverse fields. The programme featured addresses by eminent dignitaries including **Lt. Gen. Zameer Uddin Shah, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Major Mohommed Ali Shah, Ms. Neelam Chawla, and Dr. Anthony Raju Raju**. Initiated by the Faculty of Legal Studies and coordinated by **Prof. (Dr.) Ritu Gupta**, the summit also showcased cultural performances by students. A key highlight was the International Women of Courage Awards, recognising outstanding achievements in advancing human rights, equality, and empowerment.

South Asian University successfully organised Art Camp 2026 on the theme *“Visual Delights in SAARC Nations,”* in collaboration with the **Centre for Entrepreneurship, Training & Placement (CETP), Faculty of Arts and Design (FAD), and SAU Virtual Campus (SAU VC)**, bringing together over 50 students from diverse disciplines for a five-day immersive creative experience. The camp was coordinated with the support of the Dean of Students (DoS) and guided by eminent artists including **Mr. Kappari Kishan, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Dr. Vishal Bhatnagar, and Mr. Pankaj Saroj**, who mentored participants in exploring artistic expression and cultural diversity across the SAARC region. Inaugurated by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, the programme culminated in an exhibition showcasing student artworks reflecting regional vibrancy and shared cultural



Art Camp 2026 on “Visual Delights in SAARC Nations”

The **Institute of South Asian Studies**, in collaboration with the **Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies**, hosted an expert talk by **Prof. Venkat Raman of Indian Institute of Management Indore**, who recently completed a Fulbright Fellowship at the Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University. Delivering a lecture on *"Multilateralism with Chinese Characteristics: Implications for South Asia,"* he examined the multi-layered nature of Chinese multilateralism, highlighting concepts such as 'nested' and 'mandalic multilateralism'. The session provided valuable insights into China's strategic thinking and regional engagement, and concluded with a vibrant question-and-answer discussion, fostering deeper academic engagement on contemporary geopolitical dynamics.



Expert Talk on "Multilateralism with Chinese Characteristics: Implications for South Asia"



Presidential Distinguished Lecture on "Climate Terror in the Anthropocene: A South Asian Conundrum"

Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi, Senior Vice-President and Dean, Faculty of International Studies at South Asian University, delivered the seventh lecture in the SAU Presidential Distinguished Lecture Series on 6 March 2026. His lecture, titled *"Climate Terror in the Anthropocene: A South Asian Conundrum,"* examined the complex environmental challenges facing South Asia within the broader context of the Anthropocene, highlighting emerging risks and regional vulnerabilities. The lecture series, envisaged by Hon'ble SAU President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, aims to foster academic dialogue and intellectual engagement among faculty, and the session, chaired by the President, provided a platform for critical reflection on climate and security in the region.

The **Centre for Quantum Computing Policy Research and Capacity Building** at South Asian University organised the **Quantum Technologies Research Dialogue for Collaboration** on 3 March 2026, aimed at strengthening academia-industry partnerships in emerging quantum technologies. The event was graced by **Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Dr. Ajai Chowdhry, Mr. Sanjai Kumar, and Dr. S. D. Sudarsan**, who shared insights on India's quantum roadmap and innovation ecosystem. The programme featured keynote addresses, institutional presentations, and a technical session, alongside the exchange of an MoU between SAU and RailTel and the release of the book *"Quantum Fundamentals."* The dialogue fostered collaborative engagement among researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders, reinforcing the University's commitment to advancing research and capacity building in quantum technologies.



Quantum Technologies Research Dialogue for Collaboration

South Asian University celebrated **National Science Day** with a distinguished lecture by **Prof. K. Srinath Reddy, Founder President of the Public Health Foundation of India and former Head of Cardiology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences**. Organised by the Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, the event brought together faculty, researchers, and students to deliberate on the role of science in strengthening public health systems. In his keynote, he addressed non-communicable diseases, air pollution, nutrition security, and climate change, emphasising preventive healthcare, evidence-based policy, and interdisciplinary collaboration. The programme featured remarks by Prof. Ritu Gaur and Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, and concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Vivek Dixit, reaffirming the University's commitment to science-driven public health and sustainable development.



National Science Day Lecture on Science and Public Health Systems

Cultural Programs

SAARC KHEL KUMBH 2026: Celebrating Sporting Excellence and Campus Spirit

South Asian University inaugurated its annual sports fest, **SAARC KHEL KUMBH 2026**, with the ceremonial lighting of the torch, marking the beginning of a dynamic celebration of sportsmanship, teamwork, and athletic excellence on campus. Organised by the Sports Board, SAU, the event brought together students, faculty, and staff in a spirit of healthy competition and community engagement. The inaugural ceremony was graced by **Dr. Q. M. Danish Lohani, Mr. Rakesh Mohan, Mr. Bodapatla Mallesha, and Prof. Kapil Sharma**, who extended their encouragement to participants.

A key highlight of the event was the felicitation of outstanding athletes and teams for their remarkable achievements, including the SAU Men's and Women's Futsal teams, Chandra Gautam for excellence in para athletics, and winners of volleyball and SAUPL tournaments. The Sports Board also acknowledged the continued support of **Hon'ble SAU President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal** and the University administration in promoting sports initiatives.

The event reflects the University's commitment to holistic development, fostering discipline, resilience, and camaraderie through sports while strengthening a vibrant and inclusive campus culture.



Presidential Connect



Hon'ble President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal Leads SAU–AIIS Collaboration on Academic Exchange and Research Initiatives

A constructive engagement led by Hon'ble President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal of South Asian University explored potential avenues of collaboration with the **American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS)**, reflecting the University's proactive efforts to expand its global academic partnerships. The discussion focused on key initiatives including faculty and student exchanges and dissertation-to-book monograph workshops to support emerging scholars in South Asia.

The interaction was joined by **Prof. Sumathi Ramaswamy, Prof. Sunila Kale, and Dr. Emily Rook Koepsel, along with Ms. Purnima Mehta and faculty members Dr. Dev Nath Pathak and Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy.** The dialogue underscored a shared commitment to advancing research collaboration, academic mobility, and publication opportunities, highlighting the President's continued emphasis on international engagement and institutional partnerships.



Hon'ble President Engages in Panel Discussion at NXT Summit 2026

Hon'ble President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal of South Asian University participated in a **panel discussion at the NXT Summit 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, reflecting the University's proactive efforts to engage with global leaders, policymakers, and industry experts. The discussion focused on emerging global trends, innovation, and international collaboration, highlighting key issues shaping the future of technology, governance, and global partnerships.

The panel included **Bradley Jardine, Omar Besbes, and Hansong Li, alongside the President,** providing a platform for knowledge exchange, strategic dialogue, and networking. The interaction underscored a shared commitment to international engagement, collaborative innovation, and policy discourse, highlighting Prof. Aggarwal's continued emphasis on strengthening SAU's global presence and strategic outreach.



Hon'ble President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal Shares Vision for a Future-Ready Academic Ecosystem in Dainik Jagran

An interview was conducted with **Hon'ble President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal** of South Asian University in his office by senior correspondents **Mrs. Seema and Mrs. Indu Sharma from Dainik Jagran**, providing a comprehensive overview of the University's initiatives, achievements, and strategic vision. During the discussion, Prof. Aggarwal shared his insightful perspectives on shaping an education system aligned with global transformations, emphasizing critical thinking, interdisciplinary learning, and student-centric approaches.

The conversation offered valuable insights into SAU's academic programs, research collaborations, and engagement with national and international stakeholders, highlighting the University's commitment to innovative pedagogy, holistic student development, and preparing graduates to thrive in an interconnected world. The interview also underscored SAU's proactive efforts in media engagement and public discourse, reflecting the President's dedication to transparent communication, knowledge exchange, and advancing higher education in the region.

Outreach Activities



Dr. Jyotsna Sharma and Students Represent SAU at FAMN-CAID-2026 International Conference

An International Conference on “Frontiers in Advanced Materials, Nanotechnology, Computing, Artificial Intelligence-Based Devices for Environment and Sustainable Development (FAMN-CAID-2026)” was held from March 13–15, 2026, organised by the National Seminar Committee and IQAC, Motilal Nehru College, under the University of Delhi. The event brought together participants from diverse academic backgrounds to present papers and posters on sustainable technologies, smart materials, computational physics, nanophotonics, biosensors, and AI/ML applications. Dr. Jyotsna Sharma, Associate Dean, Faculty of Physical Sciences, along with 12 Integrated BS-MS students, actively participated. Dr. Sharma delivered a distinguished lecture and served as a poster judge, while the students showcased their research in physics and chemistry.



Prof. Sunil Kumar Delivers Keynote on Next-Generation GST and Inclusive Growth

Prof. Sunil Kumar, Dean, Faculty of Management, South Asian University, delivered the keynote address as Chief Guest at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, during the National Seminar on “Next Generation GST and Inclusive Growth” held on 28 March 2026. His address highlighted the evolving dimensions of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and its significance in promoting inclusive economic growth, engaging the audience in a meaningful dialogue on policy implications, economic reforms, and strategies for achieving equitable development. The session reflected SAU’s commitment to academic outreach and thought leadership in contemporary economic governance.



Empowering Youth and Fostering Opportunities: Under 25 at SAU

The Under 25 event, hosted at South Asian University on 24–25 March 2026, marked a vibrant platform for youth engagement, creativity, and industry-academia interaction. Organised by the **Centre for Entrepreneurship, Training and Placement (CETP) in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET)**, the two-day initiative brought together students, performers, and professionals, with 200+ students participating in each session, reflecting SAU’s diverse and dynamic student community. The program fostered holistic development, networking, and exposure to creative and professional opportunities, with support from Hon’ble President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Registrar Dr. Ravindra Kumar Soni, faculty members, and student volunteers, highlighting the University’s commitment to bridging academia, industry, and innovation.



Dr. Dev Nath Pathak Highlights Indigenous Knowledge Systems at International Conference

In a valedictory address at the International Conference on Embodied Pasts, organised by Janaki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi, at the India International Centre, **Dr. Dev Nath Pathak, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University**, highlighted the interconnections between the Natyashastra, the Indian Knowledge System, and embodied pasts. He emphasized that indigenous peoples of South Asia serve as key custodians of this intangible heritage, underscoring the importance of preserving and understanding traditional knowledge within contemporary academic and cultural discourse.



Dr. Medha Bisht Delivers Lecture on Ethical Command at Military Headquarters

Dr. Medha Bisht, Associate Professor (Senior Grade), Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, was invited to deliver a lecture on *“(Dharma) Yuddha in the 'Gray Zone': Ethical Command and Calculated Audacity”* at the **Military Headquarters of War (MHOW)**. The lecture was addressed to senior Indian officers and foreign officers from friendly countries, highlighting strategic ethics, decision-making frameworks, and the nuanced application of moral principles in complex operational contexts. This engagement reflects SAU’s commitment to bridging academic expertise with professional and defense sector discourse.



Dr. Dev Nath Pathak Discusses Sustainable Development at Tezpur Central University Seminar

At a national seminar held at **Tezpur Central University** on 25 March 2026, Dr. Dev Nath Pathak, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, delivered a lecture on the *contested margins and significance of sustainable development in South Asia*. His presentation highlighted the challenges and opportunities in implementing sustainable practices, the role of regional policies, and the importance of context-specific strategies for socio-environmental development, reflecting SAU’s commitment to critical scholarship and regional engagement in sustainability discourse.



SAU Faculty Join 56th Bangladesh Independence Day Celebrations at High Commission

Two Bangladeshi faculty members of South Asian University, Dr. Ananda Mustafiz and Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy, participated in the 56th Independence Day **National Day celebrations on 26 March 2026 at the Bangladesh High Commission, New Delhi**, hosted by High Commissioner Riaz Hamidullah. Their presence underscored SAU's commitment to fostering regional connections, cultural diplomacy, and active engagement with international missions, reflecting the University's role in promoting cross-border academic and cultural collaborations.



Dr. Medha Bisht Highlights Water, Climate, and Security Networks at International Workshop

Dr. Medha Bisht, Associate Professor (Senior Grade), Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, was an invited panelist at the **Workshop on Transnational Networks Reshaping Geopolitics**, organised by Jindal Global University and Northeastern University, Boston, held at the India International Centre on 17 March 2026. She delivered a talk on *"Water as Foundational Commons: Climate-Technology-Security Networks"*, examining the intersections of water governance, climate challenges, and transnational security, reflecting SAU's commitment to interdisciplinary research and global policy engagement.



Dr. Kavita Khanna Delivers Keynote on Large Language Models at COMSIA-DOSCI 2026

Dr. Kavita Khanna, Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, South Asian University, delivered the **keynote address at the 3rd COMSIA 2026 and 7th DOSCI 2026**, a Springer-approved conference held at the University of Delhi from 20–21 March 2026. The event, jointly organised by DU School of Open Learning, Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women (DU), and Silicon University, Odisha, provided a vibrant platform for academic exchange in computational intelligence and intelligent systems. Her keynote, *"Journey of Large Language Models,"* highlighted their evolution, emerging directions, and implications, engaging participants in meaningful discussions, and reflecting SAU's commitment to cutting-edge research and global academic collaboration.



Dr. Jyotsna Sharma Keynotes at International Conference on AI and ML in Engineering

Dr. Jyotsna Sharma, Associate Dean, Faculty of Physical Sciences, South Asian University, was invited as a **keynote speaker and session chair at the International Conference on "Bridging Engineering Disciplines with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning"**, jointly organized by **Khalsa College of Engineering & Technology, Amritsar**, and National Institute of Technology Delhi on 20–21 March 2026. The conference provided a global platform for researchers, academicians, industry experts, and students to explore AI and ML applications across mechanical, civil, electronics, and computer engineering domains. Dr. Sharma shared valuable insights, contributing to discussions on interdisciplinary innovation, data-driven engineering, and technological integration, reflecting SAU's commitment to academic excellence and international research collaboration.



Dr. Medha Bisht Addresses Global Water Transversality Conclave 2026

Dr. Medha Bisht, Associate Professor (Senior Grade), Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, was invited as a **distinguished speaker at the Water Transversality Global Awards and Conclave 2026**, held on 7 March 2026 at the **India International Centre, New Delhi**. The event, organized by India Water Foundation in collaboration with the United Nations ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office and SANS, with support from multiple Government of India ministries, provided a global platform for discussions on sustainable water management. Dr. Bisht delivered a talk on *"Cross-Sectoral Water Transversality for Accelerating Net Zero,"* emphasizing integrated approaches across sectors to achieve sustainable water governance and climate goals.



Dr. Anmol Mukhia Engages in International Seminars on South Asian Connectivity and India-Korea Partnership

Dr. Anmol Mukhia, Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, actively participated in multiple international forums in March 2026. He delivered a **plenary talk at the seminar "India and its Neighbourhood: Issues of Concern and Politico-Cultural Exploration"** at the **Department of International Relations, Sikkim University**, discussing "India and Connectivity in South Asia" and highlighting regional integration and cross-border linkages. Additionally, Dr. Mukhia **spoke at the international conference "Exploring Bilateral Context in the Multi-polar World: New Dimensions in India-Korea Partnership"** at the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, **Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi**, where he addressed "Third Korea and its Influence on North: Policies and Implications," reflecting SAU's commitment to advancing scholarly dialogue on geopolitics and international cooperation.

SAU Bookshelf

Insights into Inclusive Growth, Employment and Wellbeing in India

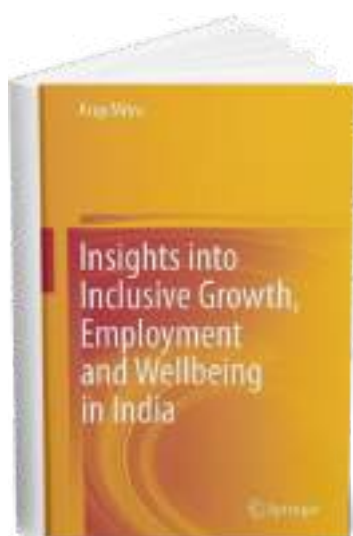
By: Prof. Arup Mitra

Insights into Inclusive Growth, Employment and Wellbeing in India examines the intricate relationship between economic growth, labour markets, and wellbeing in contemporary India. Prof. Arup Mitra delves into the question of why rapid economic expansion has not translated into proportionate poverty reduction and equitable employment opportunities. The book adopts a multidisciplinary approach while maintaining quantitative rigor, offering both macroeconomic perspectives and granular sectoral analyses.

Prof. Arup Mitra is a Professor at the Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, South Asian University, New Delhi. He earned his B.A. from Ravenshaw College, and M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Delhi School of Economics, followed by post-doctoral work at Northwestern University, USA. He was formerly Professor at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, and Director General of NILERD. His research focuses on development economics, labour markets, urban issues, industrial growth, and gender inequality.

He has consulted for international organizations, held the Indian Economy Chair at Sciences Po, Paris, and been a visiting scholar in Japan. He authored Inclusive Growth, Employment and Wellbeing (Springer), which won the Professor S. R. Sen Best Book Award, 2019. His work is widely cited and appears in major encyclopedias and edited volumes, highlighting his contributions to quantitative economics and policy research.

Insights into Inclusive Growth, Employment and Wellbeing in India, authored by **Prof. Arup Mitra** and published by **Springer**, provides a detailed and interdisciplinary exploration of India's economic growth, labour markets, and wellbeing outcomes. The book examines how macroeconomic expansion and sectoral shifts, particularly the move towards services-led growth, have affected employment patterns and poverty reduction. It analyses the industry-services balance, the spatial concentration of growth, and the challenges of rural-urban migration, highlighting how low-income households navigate informal labour networks. Special attention is given to gender dimensions of employment, exploring how labour market inequalities influence women's roles both within households and in broader society. Combining rigorous quantitative analysis with nuanced policy insights, the volume offers a critical understanding of why rapid economic growth has not translated into inclusive employment and improved wellbeing. Recognized for its contribution to development studies, the book **received the Professor S. R. Sen Best Book Award, 2019**, making it a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, and readers interested in India's development trajectory.



Prof. Arup Mitra, Professor & Dean at the Faculty of Economics, South Asian University

Did You Know?

Celebration of Colours and Renewal

March across South Asia is a celebration of colours and renewal, as the muted tones of winter fade and new flowers bloom, painting the landscape with vibrant hues. The season comes alive with festivities that reflect cultural diversity, spiritual devotion, and communal joy.



Afghanistan – Communities celebrate **Eid** with prayers, family gatherings, and festive meals, embracing the spirit of renewal and togetherness.



Maldives – **Eid** brings families together with prayers, evening feasts, and communal celebrations, adding colour to island life.



Bangladesh – Streets come alive with **Eid** celebrations and colourful springtime events, as families share meals and participate in cultural festivities.



Nepal – Devotees celebrate **Holi** with vibrant powders, communal merriment, and music, welcoming the seasonal bloom.



Bhutan – Festivals like **Paro Tshechu** showcase spiritual rituals, masked dances, and vibrant traditional attire, marking seasonal renewal.



Pakistan – **Eid** is marked by colourful attire, festive prayers, family feasts, and community celebrations.



India – **Holi**, the festival of colours, fills communities with powders, water, music, and dance, symbolizing joy, unity, and new beginnings.



Sri Lanka – Spring observances and **Medin Poya** feature processions, traditional dances, and colourful rituals, embracing spiritual and cultural traditions.

Do you know what the word 'Color' is called in the languages of South Asia?

- Afghanistan (Dari): رنگ (Rang), (Pashto): رنگ (Rang)
- Bangladesh (Bengali): রঙ (Rong)
- Bhutan (Dzongkha): ཀླེང་ (Kalad)
- India (Hindi): रंग (Rang)
- Maldives (Dhivehi): ރަންގަ (Rangah)
- Nepal (Nepali): रङ (Rang)
- Pakistan (Urdu): رنگ (Rang)
- Sri Lanka (Sinhala): වර්ණ (Varna), (Tamil): நிறம் (Niram)

Upcoming Events

April
8
2026

seminar on 'Interpreting Goddess Traditions of South Asia: Frameworks and Methodology' by Prof. R. Mahalakshmi on 8 April 2026 at SAU.

April
9
2026

Special lecture on 'Challenges Ahead in Managing a Very Fast Changing World' by Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Economist and Former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India.

April
9
2026

Interactive webinar and doubt clearing session on Admissions 2026-27

April
10
2026

SAU Presidential Distinguished Lecture Series titled 'Curative Medicine Vs Preventive Medicine'.

April
14
2026

Public Lecture on Medical Series for Public Awareness on "Lifestyles That Make Liver Cry" by Dr. S. K. Acharya, Former Professor, Dept. of Gastroenterology, AIIMS, New Delhi

April
17
2026

One-day international symposium on "Next Generation Biotechnology: Transforming Health and Agriculture,"

April
18
2026

Lecture on 'Capital Restructuring: Market Behaviour and Regulation' by Mr. Anish Dey, Director of Strategy, inStocks Training Institute.



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