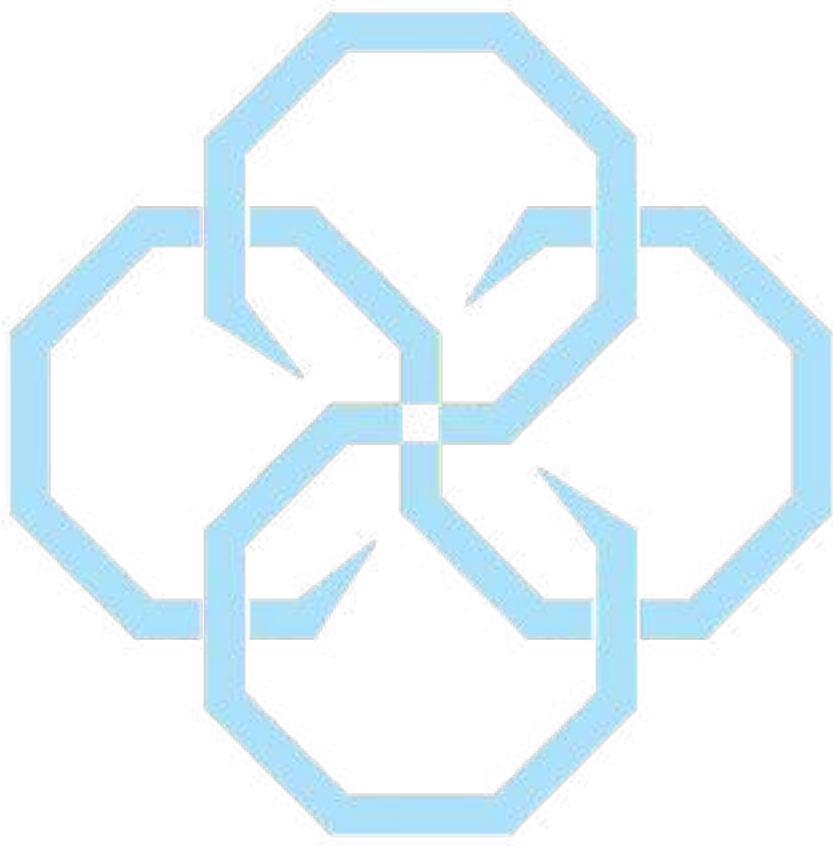




SAU
SOUTH ASIAN
UNIVERSITY

SAU CONNECT

Monthly Newsletter
April 2026





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 2010 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

I extend my warm greetings to the students, faculty, and staff of South Asian University. The continued academic, research, innovation, and cultural activities across the campus reflect the commitment and energy of our University community.

In recent months, I had the opportunity to engage with academic leaders and policymakers, including a courtesy meeting with the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, where we discussed SAU's academic growth and regional role among SAARC nations. I am also pleased to share that South Asian University signed an MoU with Nalanda University to strengthen academic and research collaboration through joint teaching, research initiatives, and academic exchanges.

It was also a privilege to engage with students and young innovators at the ISTE Bihar & Jharkhand Students' Convention, where discussions focused on next-generation technologies and sustainable development. Initiatives such as Smart Campus Hackathon 2026 and INNOVATHON 2026 reflected the creativity and innovation of our students and academic community. As we move forward, let us continue to work collectively with dedication and shared purpose to strengthen South Asian University's role as a regional centre of higher learning, research, and academic cooperation.



From the Editorial Team

This edition reflects a dynamic period of academic, research, and institutional activity at South Asian University, bringing together a wide range of achievements, dialogues, and engagements across disciplines. The university community continued to make significant contributions through international conference presentations, research publications, invited lectures, policy discussions, and collaborative academic initiatives, reinforcing SAU's commitment to interdisciplinary learning and regional engagement.

Among the key highlights are prestigious recognitions and **research grants awarded to faculty members, including international fellowships and collaborative research projects** in areas such as quantum technologies, optical networks, sustainability studies, biotechnology, and computational sciences. The edition also showcases notable student achievements, including selections for national fellowships, participation in global academic platforms, and successes in innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives. Research publications and scholarly contributions by faculty and students further underline the growing academic presence of SAU in national and international forums.

The issue also captures a **vibrant calendar of lectures, conferences, workshops, symposiums, and seminar series** organised across faculties and centres of the university. Discussions on artificial intelligence, gender and governance, international relations, intellectual property, climate change, media literacy, philosophy, law, and South Asian knowledge systems provided meaningful spaces for critical inquiry and exchange of ideas. In addition, cultural celebrations such as **Rongali Bihu and Vaisakhi** reflected the university's diverse and inclusive community spirit.

This edition further highlights SAU's outreach and public engagement initiatives, including collaborations with universities, think tanks, and international organisations, as well as interactions led by the Hon'ble President of SAU with academic, governmental, and institutional stakeholders. Together, these activities demonstrate South Asian University's continuing role as a vibrant centre for academic excellence, dialogue, innovation, and regional cooperation.

Highlights of the month



Smart Campus Hackathon 2026

South Asian University successfully concluded the **24-hour Smart Campus Hackathon 2026**, emerging as a vibrant national platform for innovation, collaboration, and technology-driven problem solving. Organised by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and the Computer Science & Technology Club (CSTC), in association with the Centre for Entrepreneurship, Training and Placement (CETP), the hackathon brought together talented students from across institutions to develop innovative solutions for smarter and digitally enabled campuses.

The hackathon witnessed participation from **188 institutions** and generated significant national engagement, with 202 teams registering for the competition. Following multiple rounds of evaluation, **125 teams progressed beyond the initial stage, while 28 finalist teams advanced to the grand finale**, where they presented working prototypes addressing real-world challenges related to campus infrastructure, technology, and user experience. The event transformed the campus into a dynamic hub of creativity, teamwork, and innovation as participants engaged in continuous brainstorming, designing, and development throughout the 24-hour challenge.

The initiative provided participants with an opportunity to engage in hands-on learning, interdisciplinary collaboration, and industry-oriented problem solving. Through mentorship, live prototyping, and competitive presentations, students were able to translate innovative ideas into practical technological solutions while interacting with experts and peers from diverse academic backgrounds.



The inaugural session featured inspiring addresses by Prof. **Pranab Muhuri, Vice President and Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology**, and Prof. **K. K. Aggarwal, Hon'ble President, South Asian University**. Both speakers emphasised the importance of innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and technology-driven problem solving in addressing contemporary societal and infrastructural challenges. Participants were encouraged to utilise the platform not only as a competition but also as an opportunity for learning, experimentation, and collaborative engagement. The final round of the hackathon showcased a diverse range of impactful and creative solutions developed by the finalist teams, reflecting strong technical capabilities and practical applicability. Among the winners, SKYHAWKS secured the first position, UWSD Surveillance achieved second place, and Mavericks secured third place for their outstanding performances and innovative prototype demonstrations.

The closing ceremony brought together senior faculty members, mentors, jury members, and participants for the announcement of results and prize distribution. The organisers acknowledged the contribution of GeeksforGeeks as the judging partner for the event, along with the dedicated support of jury members, mentors, and organising teams who guided participants throughout the competition.



The hackathon concluded on a highly positive note, reflecting the enthusiasm, creativity, and collaborative spirit of the participants, while reaffirming SAU's commitment to promoting innovation-driven learning, industry-academia partnerships, and future-ready technological ecosystems.

INNOVATHON 2026 – AI Hackathon



South Asian University successfully organised **INNOVATHON 2026 – AI Hackathon** from 24–26 April 2026, bringing together students, innovators, mentors, and industry experts for an intensive three-day innovation challenge. Organised by the **Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology Promotion (CETP)** and the **Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET)**, in collaboration with Nirmal Bharat, the hackathon focused on developing AI-powered solutions for real-world business challenges through ideation, prototyping, and live demonstrations.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and professionals who showcased creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills across diverse domains of artificial intelligence and technology. Participants engaged in collaborative learning, networking, and mentorship sessions while competing in a dynamic hybrid format designed to encourage innovation and practical application of ideas.

A key feature of the hackathon was its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration and hands-on learning. Teams worked on innovative solutions addressing practical challenges, combining technical expertise with strategic thinking and design-oriented approaches. The event also provided participants with opportunities to interact closely with mentors, industry professionals, and jury members, enabling valuable exchange of ideas and guidance throughout the competition.

The hackathon concluded with presentations and demonstrations by participating teams, followed by the recognition of winning entries for their innovation, feasibility, and impact. The event served as a vibrant platform for emerging talent and reflected the university's continued commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, innovation ecosystems, and technology-led problem solving within the academic community.

Research Spotlight

Ethical Challenges and Consumer Trust in Influencer Marketing

By Dr. Ashish Gupta, in collaboration with Devanshi Mehra, Suraksha Gupta, T. C. Melewar, and Liz Gee, published the research paper in the International Journal of Advertising.

Influencer marketing has emerged as one of the most influential forms of digital advertising, significantly shaping consumer behaviour, brand engagement, and online culture. As social media influencers increasingly act as trusted opinion leaders, concerns regarding transparency, authenticity, sponsorship disclosure, and consumer manipulation have also intensified. This research examines the ethical dimensions of influencer marketing and investigates how consumers perceive ethical and unethical influencer practices in digital spaces.

The study combines a systematic review of existing academic literature with consumer interviews to provide a comprehensive understanding of the ethical challenges associated with influencer-led advertising. The research further proposes a framework for responsible and transparent influencer marketing practices.



Research Objectives

The study aimed to explore the evolving ethical concerns surrounding influencer marketing and understand how these concerns influence consumer trust and engagement. It specifically examined issues related to sponsorship disclosure, authenticity, misleading representation, and audience vulnerability in digital advertising environments. The research also sought to identify the responsibilities of influencers, brands, and social media platforms in ensuring ethical communication practices.

Research Methodology

The research was conducted in two stages. In the first phase, the authors carried out a systematic review of 116 academic studies related to influencer marketing ethics using thematic analysis and structured review methods. This helped identify recurring ethical concerns and gaps within existing scholarship.

In the second phase, the researchers conducted 24 in-depth interviews with consumers to understand audience perceptions of influencer behaviour, sponsored content, and trustworthiness. The integration of literature findings with consumer perspectives enabled the development of a broader ethical framework for influencer marketing.

Key Findings

The study reveals that consumers increasingly expect transparency and honesty from influencers and brands. One of the most significant concerns identified was the lack of clear disclosure in sponsored posts. Consumers often perceive undisclosed paid partnerships as deceptive because they blur the distinction between personal recommendations and advertising.

The research also highlights the growing importance of authenticity in influencer culture. Audiences tend to trust influencers who appear relatable, genuine, and consistent in their endorsements. However, excessive commercialisation and repetitive promotional content negatively affect influencer credibility and consumer trust. Another major finding relates to unrealistic portrayals and manipulated online identities. Influencer content frequently presents highly curated lifestyles, edited appearances, and exaggerated product claims, contributing to unrealistic expectations and social comparison among audiences, particularly younger users.

Major Ethical Concerns Identified



Hidden or unclear sponsorship disclosures



Declining authenticity due to excessive promotions



Unrealistic lifestyle portrayals and misleading product endorsements



Vulnerability of younger audiences to persuasive content

The study further emphasises that children and adolescents are especially susceptible to influencer marketing because they often struggle to recognise persuasive intent embedded within entertainment-based content. This raises concerns regarding digital advertising literacy and consumer protection in social media environments.

Role of Stakeholders

The research argues that ethical responsibility extends beyond influencers alone. Brands, advertising agencies, and social media platforms all play a critical role in shaping ethical digital advertising ecosystems. The study suggests that brands should prioritise transparent collaborations and partner with influencers whose communication aligns with ethical standards.

Social media platforms are also encouraged to strengthen disclosure mechanisms and improve monitoring systems for sponsored content. The research notes that ethical influencer marketing cannot be sustained without collective accountability across all stakeholders involved in digital advertising.

The study recommends:

- Stronger disclosure practices for sponsored content
- Greater transparency in influencer-brand collaborations
- Improved digital advertising literacy among consumers
- Enhanced regulatory guidelines for social media advertising



Research Contribution and Implications

One of the major contributions of this research is the development of an integrated ethical influencer marketing framework that connects transparency, authenticity, trust, and consumer engagement. The study positions ethics as a strategic and long-term requirement for sustainable influencer marketing rather than merely a regulatory obligation.

The findings provide valuable insights for marketers, policymakers, digital platforms, and researchers. The research highlights that ethical communication practices are increasingly becoming essential for maintaining brand credibility and long-term audience trust in the digital economy.

The study also identifies future areas for exploration, including AI-generated influencers, algorithm-driven advertising ethics, and the psychological impact of influencer culture on young consumers.

Conclusion

This research offers a timely and comprehensive examination of the ethical challenges emerging within influencer marketing. By combining academic analysis with real consumer experiences, the study demonstrates that transparency, authenticity, and accountability are now central to effective digital communication strategies. As influencer marketing continues to expand globally, ethical considerations will play an increasingly important role in shaping consumer trust, regulatory frameworks, and the future of digital advertising practices.



This research, titled "Ethics in Influencer Marketing: A Review, Synthesis and Research Directions," was conducted by Dr. Ashish Gupta (Faculty of Management, South Asian University & Indian Institute of Foreign Trade), in collaboration with Devanshi Mehra (Indian Institute of Foreign Trade), Suraksha Gupta (Fashion Business School, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London), T. C. Melewar (Middlesex University), and Liz Gee (Fashion Business School, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London), published the research paper in the International Journal of Advertising.

Research and Publications

Research Scholar Presents on India's Solar Leadership and Youth Diplomacy at International Conference

Keshav Kumar, Research Scholar from the Department of International Relations at South Asian University, under the supervision of Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi, presented a paper titled "From Climate Justice to Energy Security: India's Solar Leadership and Youth Diplomacy on the Global Stage" at Nalanda University. The paper was presented at an international conference co-organised by Nalanda University and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, held from 26–28 March 2026. The conference brought together scholars, policymakers, and young leaders to deliberate on pressing global challenges, with a particular focus on climate action, energy transitions, and youth engagement in diplomacy.

PhD Scholar Presents Research on Environmental Security and Global Governance at ISA Convention

Tekraj Koirala, PhD Scholar in the Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies at South Asian University, presented his research at the International Studies Association Annual Convention held in Columbus, from 22–25 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." His research highlights Nepal's experience and contributes to broader discussions on how the military responds to complex environmental challenges.

SAU Researchers Publish Study on Gene Regulation in Rice

Dr. Ananda Mustafiz, Associate Professor at the Plant Molecular Biology Laboratory, South Asian University, along with his PhD student Arushi Jain and co-authors Mujibur Rehman, Rakhi, and Nazmir Binta Aalam, has published a research paper titled "Genome-wide analysis of NF-Y genes and assessing their potential as miRNA targets in rice" in Springer Nature journal *Physiology and Molecular Biology of Plants*.

The study provides important insights into the NF-Y gene family and examines their potential regulation by miRNAs, contributing to a deeper understanding of plant gene regulation mechanisms. The research marks a significant step forward in advancing knowledge in plant molecular biology and genomics.

SAU Faculty Publishes on Sustainability Reporting and Emission Tracking in India

Dr. Shyamli Singh, Associate Professor at the Centre of Climate Change and Sustainability, South Asian University, has published a research paper titled "Sustainability and Emission Tracking in Indian Companies" in *IJPA*, published by SAGE Journals.

The paper underscores that with the escalating impacts of climate change, the need for reliable, transparent, and actionable sustainability reporting has become increasingly critical. It examines how Indian companies—particularly in the power and energy as well as manufacturing sectors—are engaging with emission disclosures under the BRSR framework.

The study contributes to ongoing discussions on strengthening sustainability reporting practices and highlights pathways for deeper engagement among practitioners, researchers, and policymakers in India and beyond.



Collaboration



SAU Signs MoU with Nalanda University

South Asian University (SAU) and Nalanda University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen academic and research collaboration between the two institutions. The MoU was signed by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Hon'ble President, South Asian University, and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University, at the Nalanda University campus in Rajgir, Bihar, in the presence of academics, dignitaries, government officials, media representatives, and students.

The collaboration aims to promote joint academic and research initiatives, including collaborative teaching programmes, joint research supervision, post-doctoral opportunities, conferences, symposiums, publications, and exchange of faculty members, research fellows, and students. The partnership also seeks to encourage the sharing of academic resources, publications, and scholarly expertise to strengthen long-term institutional engagement and knowledge exchange.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal noted that the collaboration would further enhance mutual cooperation in academics and research for the benefit of students and scholars. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi described the MoU as an important step towards expanding joint academic engagement and creating greater opportunities for students to benefit from the strengths of both institutions.

Achievements

SAU Faculty Awarded Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship for Research in Advanced Optical Networks

Dr. Bijoy Chand Chatterjee, Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at South Asian University, New Delhi, has been awarded the prestigious **Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship**.

Under this fellowship, he will undertake research at the University of California, Davis. His research, titled *"Machine Learning-Driven Resource Optimization for Next-Generation Optical Networks Across Large Geographies: USA and India,"* focuses on developing intelligent, scalable optical networking frameworks using machine learning. The work aims to enhance resource allocation, improve network efficiency, and support future communication infrastructures across large-scale deployments.



SAU Students Win at International Youth Biodiversity Conference (IYBC) 2026

The **International Youth Biodiversity Conference (IYBC) 2026**, held at Kanha Shanti Vanam from February 20–23, focused on the theme *"Biodiversity for LiFE: Skilling Youth for a Green Future."* Organised by the Telangana Biodiversity Board, the conference brought together global experts and youth to deliberate on green careers, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. Sessions highlighted key legal frameworks, including the Biological Diversity Act, and emphasised community participation and policy integration, with the T-Hub incubation programme emerging as a key feature.

Shubham Pani and Sagar Banwale from The Climate Centre, South Asian University, won the competition, securing incubation support for their innovative sustainability-focused startup idea.



SAU Student Selected for Teach For India Fellowship 2026

South Asian University is pleased to share that **Kanishka Rastogi**, a Semester IV student of MA Sociology (2024–2026), has been selected as a recipient of the Teach For India Fellowship 2026.

The **Teach For India Fellowship** is a highly competitive programme that places outstanding graduates in under-resourced schools across India, where they work as full-time teachers and leaders committed to addressing educational inequity. Through the fellowship, participants engage directly with classrooms and communities while developing leadership skills to drive long-term systemic change in education.

Her selection reflects a strong commitment to social impact and engagement with issues of equity and access in the education sector.



SAU Faculty Selected as India-Side PI for JST–LOTUS Programme

South Asian University is pleased to share that Dr. Bijoy Chand Chatterjee, Associate Professor, has been selected as the India-side Principal Investigator for a project under the Japan Science and Technology Agency–LOTUS Programme (FY2025), in collaboration with Kyoto University. The project, titled “Design of Quantum-Aware Resource Allocation in Spectrally-Spatial Optical Networks,” focuses on developing advanced, quantum-aware optical networking solutions to enhance efficiency, scalability, and security in next-generation communication infrastructures.



SAU Faculty Awarded ANRF Early Career Researchers' Platform Grant

South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi, is pleased to share that Dr. Rohit Khandelwal, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Mathematical Sciences, has been awarded the prestigious Anusandhan National Research Foundation Early Career Researchers' Platform. Under this highly competitive grant, he has secured research funding of ₹32 lakhs for his project titled “Digital Twins for Design of Electromagnetic Materials and Devices Using Optimal Control and Finite Element Methods.” The project lies at the intersection of computational mathematics, optimal control, and finite element methods, focusing on the development of structure-preserving optimal control of Maxwell's equations with applications such as source cloaking. Dr. Khandelwal completed his doctoral research at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, where he was awarded Distinction in Doctoral Research in 2023, and subsequently served as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at George Mason University.





New Course

Introduction to South Asia Course Conducted in Unified Format at SAU

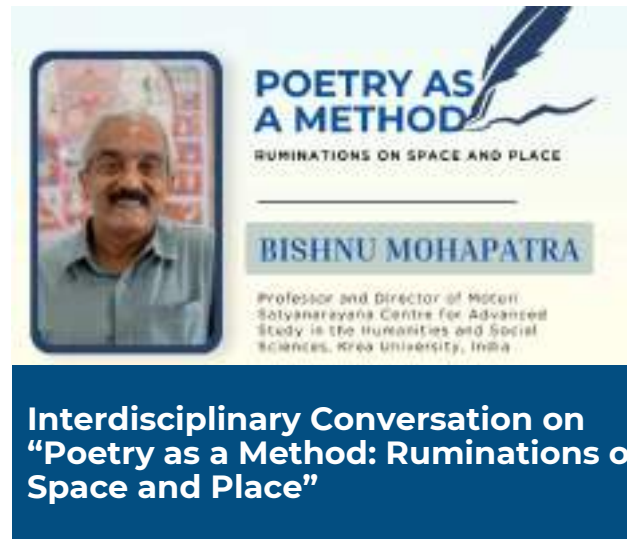
The flagship **Introduction to South Asia (ITSA)** course at South Asian University was conducted in a unified format for the first time across the university, under the guidance of Hon'ble President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal. Coordinated by the Institute of South Asian Studies, the course brought together faculty from diverse disciplines and departments to provide students with a comprehensive and interdisciplinary understanding of the South Asian region.

The course included key components such as Legal Systems of South Asia, Comparative Criminal Justice, and Private International Law Related to Family Matters, offering insights into legal concepts, institutions, and processes across South Asian countries. It familiarised students with the nature of crime, criminal justice systems, and cross-border legal frameworks, while also addressing issues of jurisdiction, investigation, and adjudication, thereby strengthening their understanding of regional integration and legal cooperation.

As a core component of the Master's programme, the course is designed to build foundational knowledge of South Asia while encouraging critical engagement with regional challenges. It reflects the university's emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and its commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of South Asian societies, institutions, and collaborative frameworks.

Academic Activities

The Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, organised an interdisciplinary conversation on *"Poetry as a Method: Ruminations on Space and Place"* on 30 April 2026 at the university campus. The session featured **Prof. Bishnu N. Mohapatra**, Professor and Director at the Moturi Satyanarayana Centre for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Krea University, in conversation with Prof. Dev Nath Pathak, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, bringing together diverse perspectives on the intersections of poetry, space, and social inquiry. The discussion engaged participants in reflecting on alternative methodologies in the social sciences and the role of creative expression in understanding lived experiences.



The day two of the International Workshop **"Bridging the Gap Across Sciences"** at South Asian University focused on advancing global research collaboration and interdisciplinary inquiry. The day began with a virtual keynote by **Hyyong Suk from Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology**, followed by technical sessions featuring oral and poster presentations from scholars across leading institutions worldwide. Discussions covered diverse themes including AI in healthcare, plasma physics, quantum computing, and sustainable energy technologies. Student cultural performances reflecting the spirit of the SAARC region added vibrancy to the programme. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Jyotsna Sharma, celebrating a successful commemoration of National Science Day.

The Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, New Delhi, organised a guest lecture on *"International Mediation Law: Emerging Trends & Global Frameworks – Perspectives on ADR in a Changing World Order"* on 29 April 2026. The session was delivered by **Mr. J.P. Sengh, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India**, and chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Ritu Gupta, Dean, Faculty of Legal Studies, under the patronage of Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President, South Asian University. The lecture explored the evolving landscape of mediation, global frameworks, and the growing relevance of Alternative Dispute Resolution in a rapidly changing world. The session provided valuable insights into contemporary developments in international mediation law and engaged students, scholars, and legal professionals in discussions on the role of ADR in addressing complex cross-border disputes.



South Asian University, through the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology Promotion (CETP), organised a Regional Investor Seminar on Financial and Investor Awareness on 29 April 2026 at its campus, in collaboration with leading financial institutions. The session featured **Mr. Gyanendra N. from Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mr. Shantanu Chakraborty and Mr. Marlon Correia from National Securities Depository Limited, and Mr. Prosenjit Pal** from National Stock Exchange of India, who shared expert insights on financial literacy, investment practices, capital markets, and investor protection.

The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty across disciplines, including Law, Management, Economics, and Sociology. The session also included interactive learning segments, discussions, and engagement opportunities, fostering greater financial awareness and informed understanding of investment practices among participants.



Regional Investor Seminar on Financial and Investor Awareness



Panel Discussion on “Reimagining Intellectual Property in the Global South: GI & Trademarks in a Changing Global Economy”

South Asian University organised an online panel discussion on “Reimagining Intellectual Property in the Global South: GI & Trademarks in a Changing Global Economy” on 26 April 2026. The session featured **Adv. Ganesh Hingmire**, Founder of Great Mission Group Consultancy, and **Adv. Kunal Sharma**, Founder and Managing Partner of TARAKSH Lawyers and Consultants, who shared expert perspectives on evolving intellectual property frameworks and their implications in the global South. The discussion provided participants with valuable insights into geographical indications, trademarks, and the changing dynamics of the global economy.

South Asian University organised the first lecture in its Gender Talks series, titled “*Sexual Harassment, Cyber Laws and Gender-Sensitive Policing*,” delivered by **Ms. Tejaswani Gautam**, Senior Superintendent of Police, Kota City, Rajasthan. Initiated by the Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee, the series aims to create a dialogical space for awareness and discussion on issues related to sexual harassment and violence against women. The session was attended by university leadership including Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, along with Vice Presidents, Registrar, Deans, faculty, staff, and students, and was facilitated by Dr. Shweta Singh and committee members. The lecture witnessed active student participation and included engaging discussions on legal frameworks, cyber safety, and gender-sensitive policing practices. The session also provided an interactive platform for dialogue among participants, contributing to greater awareness and institutional engagement on gender-related issues.



Lecture on “Sexual Harassment, Cyber Laws and Gender-Sensitive Policing” under Gender Talks Series

The Faculty of Physical Sciences, in association with the Centre for Quantum Computing Policy Research and Capacity Building, organised a National Symposium on Fundamental Quantum Technologies on 24 April 2026 to mark World Quantum Day. The inaugural session included addresses by **Prof. (Dr.) Satya N. Gupta**, Dr. Jyotsna Sharma, and Prof. Pankaj Jain, followed by the inaugural address by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal. The symposium featured technical sessions with expert talks by speakers from QNu Labs and the GI4QC Forum, covering themes such as post-quantum cryptography, career pathways, and emerging interdisciplinary perspectives. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Preeti Bhandari and witnessed active participation from faculty members, researchers, and students. The symposium facilitated meaningful discussions on advancements and future directions in quantum technologies.



National Symposium on Fundamental Quantum Technologies आयोजित at SAU



Clear Talk 2.0: Interdisciplinary Debate Championship at SAU

South Asian University hosted Clear Talk 2.0, an interdisciplinary debate championship organised by the Tarqshila Debate Society, bringing together students across disciplines for rigorous dialogue and exchange of ideas. The session was graced by **Dr. Dev Nath Pathak, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, as Chief Guest, with judging support from Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy and Dr. Daksha Sharma**, who upheld high academic standards throughout the competition. The event transformed Lecture Hall 1 into a vibrant space for critical thinking, debate, and intellectual engagement. The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students demonstrating depth of research and spontaneity across rounds. The event fostered meaningful dialogue across perspectives and concluded with recognition of the winners, reflecting the spirit of inquiry and debate within the university community.

The Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, organised a lecture under its Departmental Seminar Series titled "*West Asia: War of Choice or War of Attrition.*" The session was delivered by **Ambassador Rtn. Anil Trigunayat (IFS Retd.)**, Distinguished Fellow at the Vivekananda International Foundation, who examined the evolving dynamics of conflict in West Asia, its historical context, and its relevance for South Asia. The lecture offered critical insights into the strategic and political dimensions of ongoing conflicts and their implications for regional stability.

The session concluded with a vibrant discussion and Q&A, with active participation from students and faculty. It provided a platform for deeper engagement with contemporary geopolitical developments and policy discourse.



Lecture on "West Asia: War of Choice or War of Attrition"

The Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, organised a lecture on *“Rethinking the Idea of the Social: An Analytic Philosophical Approach”* as part of its Sociology Seminar Series. The session was delivered by **Dr. Bhaskarjit Neog**, Associate Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, who explored philosophical perspectives on the concept of the social through an analytic lens. The talk encouraged participants to critically engage with foundational ideas and frameworks within sociology and philosophy. The session witnessed active participation from students and faculty, fostering meaningful discussion and interdisciplinary reflection on the nature and scope of the social.



Lecture on “Rethinking the Idea of the Social: An Analytic Philosophical Approach”



International Symposium on Next-Generation Biotechnology at SAU

The Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, South Asian University, organised a one-day international symposium titled *“Next Generation Biotechnology: Transforming Health and Agriculture”* on 17 April 2026. The inaugural session featured Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, **Prof. Sudhir K. Sopory**, **Prof. Senthil Kumar Venugopal**, and **Prof. Ritu Gaur**, who highlighted the role of emerging technologies, including AI and digital innovations, in advancing biotechnology and biomedical research. The symposium brought together leading experts from institutions such as International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Regional Centre for Biotechnology, and University of Maryland, among others.

The event featured a series of expert talks covering themes such as crop resilience, gene therapy, digital health, and advanced medical treatments, offering valuable insights into innovations in health and agriculture.

South Asian University, in collaboration with Publish for India, organised a workshop on *“The Integrity-Innovation Nexus: Navigating 2026 Research Standards”* on 16 April 2026. The session was attended by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Prof. Pankaj Jain, Dr. Ravindra Soni, and Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, and featured expert inputs from **Ms. Sagarika Ghosh** and **Dr. Naren Aggarwal**. The workshop focused on research integrity, global publishing standards, and emerging challenges in academic research.

The session brought together faculty, scholars, and students for discussions on ethical research practices and the evolving landscape of academic publishing, including the role of AI. It provided a platform for meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange on strengthening integrity in contemporary research.



Workshop on “The Integrity-Innovation Nexus: Navigating 2026 Research Standards”

The Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, organised a lecture on 16 April 2026 under its Department Thursday Seminar Series. The session featured **Dr. Smruti Pattanaik**, Research Fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, who delivered a talk on "*Implications of Iran War on South Asia: Economic and Geopolitical Dimensions*," highlighting the broader regional impact of ongoing geopolitical developments. The lecture examined implications for sectors such as tourism, transport, and regional economic linkages.

The session concluded with an engaging discussion and Q&A, with active participation from students and faculty. It provided a platform for deeper understanding of the intersection between geopolitics and economic dynamics in South Asia.



Lecture on "Implications of Iran War on South Asia: Economic and Geopolitical Dimensions"



SAU Thought Café Lecture on "The Global Goal of Education is Changing: Will We Lead the Change?"

South Asian University organised a lecture under its SAU Thought Café series featuring **Satya Saurabh Khosla**, who spoke on "*The Global Goal of Education is Changing: Will We Lead the Change?*". The session explored shifting global priorities in education, emphasising the need to move beyond material measures of success and adopt more holistic and interdisciplinary approaches. The lecture also highlighted the relevance of social sciences and traditional knowledge systems in addressing contemporary challenges such as economic resilience.

The session was chaired by Prof. Sumat Aggarwal, OSD to the President and Emeritus Professor, and witnessed active participation from students and faculty. It fostered meaningful dialogue and reflection on the evolving role of education in a rapidly changing global context.

South Asian University organised a session under its Medical Series for Public Awareness titled "*Lifestyles That Make Liver Cry!*". The lecture was delivered by **Dr. S. K. Acharya**, who highlighted the impact of lifestyle choices, particularly obesity and metabolic health, on liver function, with emphasis on prevention, early diagnosis, and healthy living practices. The session was presided over by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal and curated and chaired by Dr. Ashwani Kumar, with a welcome address by Prof. Sumat Aggarwal.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff, followed by an engaging Q&A session. It provided a platform for increasing awareness and encouraging informed lifestyle choices within the university community.



Medical Awareness Lecture on "Lifestyles That Make Liver Cry!"

The Faculty of Management, South Asian University, organised an expert session on “Applications of AI in Business” on 13 April 2026 as part of its lecture series. The session featured **Prof. D. P. Agrawal**, former Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission, who shared insights on the transformative role of artificial intelligence in business practices and decision-making. The lecture highlighted emerging trends and practical applications of AI across sectors.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, scholars, and faculty across disciplines, including Interdisciplinary Studies, Computer Science, and Law. It fostered meaningful discussions on the future of AI in the business landscape and its broader implications.



Expert Session on “Applications of AI in Business”



Interdisciplinary Conversation at FSS on Culture, Foodways, and Society

The Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, organised an interdisciplinary conversation led by **Prof. Pushpesh Pant**, cultural diplomacy and foodways expert, coordinated by Dr. Ishita Dey from the Department of Sociology. The conversation series, an initiative of the Associate Dean, aims to foster academic dialogue across disciplines in alignment with the vision of Prof. K. K. Aggarwal. The session brought together diverse perspectives, encouraging engagement beyond disciplinary boundaries.

The event witnessed participation from students and faculty members from SAU as well as other universities in Delhi. It provided an enriching platform for dialogue, reflection, and exchange of ideas on culture, society, and interdisciplinary approaches.

The Faculty of Arts and Design, in collaboration with the Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, organised the launch of “*Media, Law and Democracy: Representation, Regulation and the Modern State*” on 13 April 2026. The book was formally released by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, in the presence of Prof. Pankaj Jain, Prof. Pranab Muhuri, and Dr. Ravindra Soni. Authored by **Ambrish Saxena, Ravi Prakash, and Monika Rastogi**, the publication examines the evolving relationship between media, law, and democratic governance.

The session featured a review by Prof. (Dr.) Ritu Gupta, who highlighted key themes such as media regulation, freedom of expression, and representation. The event brought together students and faculty for an engaging discussion on the role of media law in shaping accountable and inclusive democratic systems.



Book Launch of “Media, Law and Democracy: Representation, Regulation and the Modern State”

South Asian University organised an expert session on leadership and skill development on 8 April 2026 in collaboration with Aspire Institute. The session was delivered by **Mr. Hussain Rasheed**, Extended Leadership Program Strategist at Aspire, who discussed the importance of building new skill sets, enhancing decision-making capabilities, and fostering leadership in a competitive environment. The lecture highlighted practical approaches to developing confidence and strategic thinking.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across Management, Engineering, and BS-MS programmes. It provided valuable insights into leadership development and encouraged students to engage with evolving professional and organisational challenges.



Expert Session on Leadership and Skill Development by Aspire



Young Scholars Conference on “Epistemic Shifts from the Global South”

South Asian University, through its Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), organised the Young Scholars Conference on “*Epistemic Shifts from the Global South: Disrupting Colonial Cartographies of Knowledge*” on 9–10 April 2026. The inaugural session featured an address by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal on the relevance of South Asian knowledge systems, along with an introduction to the conference theme by **Dr. Ravi Kumar**, Director, CETL. The conference brought together emerging scholars to engage with questions of knowledge production and decolonial perspectives.

The event witnessed participation from young researchers and students, fostering discussions on South Asian knowledge systems and contemporary global challenges. It provided a platform for critical dialogue and interdisciplinary engagement on rethinking epistemic frameworks.

The Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, organised a lecture on “*Implications of War on South Asia: Economic and Geopolitical Dimensions*” on 16 April 2026. The session featured **Dr. Smruti Pattanaik**, Research Fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, who examined the economic and geopolitical implications of conflict for South Asia. The lecture highlighted the broader regional impact of war on economic systems and strategic dynamics.

The session witnessed active participation from students and faculty, followed by an engaging discussion. It provided valuable insights into the intersection of geopolitics and regional economic challenges.



Lecture on “Implications of War on South Asia: Economic and Geopolitical Dimensions”

The Faculty of Management, South Asian University, organised an expert session on “Applications of AI in Business” on 13 April 2026 at the university campus. The session was delivered by **Prof. D. P. Agrawal**, former Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission, and was presided over by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal. The lecture explored the growing role of artificial intelligence in transforming business practices and decision-making processes.

The session witnessed active participation from students and faculty, fostering engaging discussions on emerging trends and applications of AI in the business landscape. It provided valuable insights into how technological advancements are shaping the future of management and industry.



The Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, organised a lecture on “Recharacterizing Contracts: The Sale-versus-Loan Problem of Receivables Financing” on 22 April 2026. The session was delivered by **Prof. Steven L. Schwarcz**, who examined complex issues surrounding receivables financing and the distinction between sale and loan structures in contract law. The lecture provided insights into evolving legal interpretations and financial frameworks.

The session was conducted online and witnessed participation from students and legal scholars. It facilitated engaging discussions on contemporary developments in financial law and contract theory.

Cultural Programs

Rongali Bihu Celebrations at SAU

The Assamese community at South Asian University celebrated Rongali Bihu, the Assamese New Year, on 17 April 2026 with great enthusiasm. The celebrations began with the felicitation of Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, followed by a tribute to renowned Assamese artist Zubeen Garg. The inaugural address was delivered by Prof. Arup Mitra, and attendees were welcomed with traditional gamosa and jolpan, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Assam. The event featured vibrant performances of folk songs, music, and the traditional Husori dance by students.

The celebration witnessed participation from students, faculty, and guest performers, including artists from Delhi University. Organised by Assamese students under the mentorship of Dr. Binoy Goswami and Dr. Sumedha Dutta, the event concluded with cultural performances and community engagement, offering a lively glimpse into Assamese traditions.



HULAAREY – Vaisakhi Celebration 2026 at SAU

The Punjabi Community of South Asian University, in collaboration with the Punjabi Academy, celebrated HULAAREY – Vaisakhi Celebration 2026 with great enthusiasm and cultural vibrancy. The event was graced by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, along with Prof. Kapil Sharma, Prof. Navnit Jha, and members of the university community, whose presence added significance to the occasion. Centred on the theme “Saadi Sunhari Virasat,” the celebration highlighted the richness of Punjabi culture and traditions.

The evening featured energetic performances including Bhangra and Giddha, along with live music and a DJ session, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff, reflecting a shared celebration of cultural heritage and community spirit.



Presidential Connect



Courtesy Meeting with Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi

Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Hon'ble President, South Asian University, paid a courtesy call on Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, at Lok Niwas. During the meeting, he apprised the Lieutenant Governor of the university's academic growth, institutional developments, and its role as an international university serving students from SAARC countries, with a focus on interdisciplinary education and regional cooperation.

The discussion also touched upon ongoing academic initiatives, research engagement, and the university's efforts to strengthen its regional and global academic presence. The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor appreciated these efforts and expressed his intent to visit the university in the near future to further engage with its academic community.



Chief Guest Address at ISTE Students' Convention

Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Hon'ble President, South Asian University, was invited as Chief Guest at the 2nd ISTE Bihar & Jharkhand Students' Convention on "Next-Generation Technologies for a Resilient Society," organised by Government Engineering College Vaishali and Muzaffarpur Institute of Technology, alongside Prof. S. K. Verma, Vice-Chancellor, BEU Patna. The convention was held on 4-5 April 2026, bringing together students and academic leaders to engage with emerging technological trends.

In his address, Prof. Aggarwal emphasised the importance of innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration in building a sustainable future. He highlighted the role of next-generation technologies in addressing global challenges and encouraged students to actively engage in knowledge creation and problem-solving.



Media Feature on AI and the Future of Education

Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Hon'ble President, South Asian University, was featured in a podcast by Dainik Jagran, where he discussed the evolving role of artificial intelligence in education and the question of whether it can replace teachers. The conversation explored the opportunities and challenges posed by AI in shaping the future of learning.

The discussion offered insights into the integration of technology in education, emphasising the continued importance of human engagement in teaching and learning processes.



MoU on academic and research programs signed with Nalanda University

An MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) on academic and research programs has been signed by Prof. K.K. Aggarwal, Hon'ble President, South Asian University (SAU) and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University, India, today at Nalanda University India's campus at Rajgir, Bihar in presence of leading experts, dignitaries, media, government officials and students.

Speaking on the eve of the signing ceremony, Professor K. K. Aggarwal, Hon'ble President, South Asian University stated that the MoU between the two Universities will further collectively expand mutual cooperation in academics and research areas benefiting the students.

The MoU marks a significant step towards strengthening academic cooperation and fostering meaningful institutional partnerships. It also envisages collaborative initiatives including joint research supervision, joint teaching programmes, post-doctoral research opportunities, organisation of conferences, symposiums and publications, as well as the exchange of faculty, research fellows, and students, among others.

Outreach Activities



Workshop on Social Emotional Learning and Media Literacy

A workshop on “Social Emotional Learning and Media Literacy” was held at Kathmandu University on 22–23 April 2026, in collaboration with UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development and South Asian University. Prof. Amrish Saxena conducted sessions on media and information literacy, while Dr. Richa Bansal led sessions on social emotional learning. The programme was coordinated by Prof. Nirmala Mani Adhikary, Head of the Department of Languages and Mass Communication.

The workshop brought together faculty members, research scholars, students, and media professionals, fostering interactive and participatory learning. It provided a platform for engagement with key themes in media literacy and socio-emotional education.



Keynote Address on Reading Texts in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Dev Nath Pathak, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, delivered a keynote address at the inauguration of a young scholars’ conference at the Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia. His talk examined the challenges of reading texts in the contemporary world, noting how texts have become increasingly complex in the age of generative AI, and raising critical questions around authorship and readership.

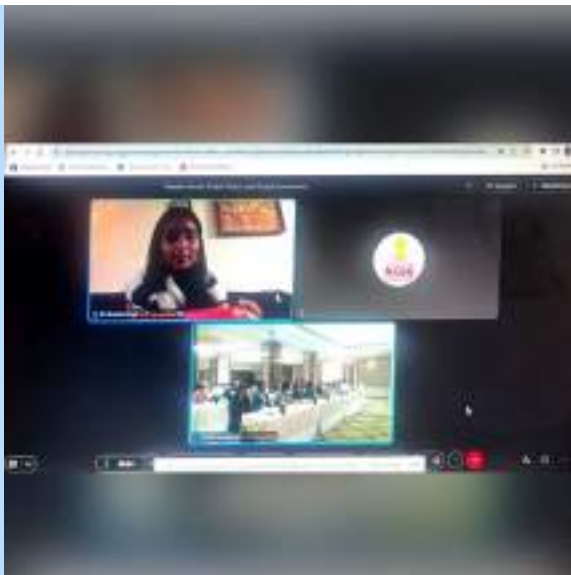
Drawing on examples from cultural history, epics, and civilizational texts, the address encouraged young scholars to approach reading with a sense of social responsibility. The session offered a reflective perspective on interpretation and knowledge in a technologically mediated context.



Session on Journalism and Mass Communication at TIPSCON Conference

The Journalism and Mass Communication session of the 14th TIPSCON International Conference was held on 18 April 2026 at the Trinity Institute of Professional Studies under the theme “Global Flux 2050: Navigating Technology, Media, Economy, Law and Human Freedom.” The session was chaired by Dr. Abinash Jha, Professor at South Asian University, along with Dr. Ruchika Gupta, and commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Dimple Arora. The session featured presentations of eight research papers addressing key issues in contemporary media and communication.

The presentations covered themes such as misinformation, algorithmic influence, digital ethics, and media representation, followed by brief discussions. The session concluded with closing remarks appreciating the quality and relevance of the research, and encouraged continued academic engagement in the field.



Lecture on “Gender Norms, Public Policy and Global Governance”

Dr. Shweta Singh, Associate Professor (SG), South Asian University, delivered an online lecture titled “Gender Norms, Public Policy and Global Governance” as part of the 3rd Special Capacity Building Programme for Mid-Career Civil Servants of Mauritius. The programme was organised by the National Centre for Good Governance, Mussoorie, from 30 March to 11 April 2026, bringing together participants for advanced policy-oriented training.

The session focused on the intersections of gender, governance, and public policy, offering insights into global frameworks and institutional approaches. It facilitated engagement with key issues in gender-sensitive policymaking and governance practices.



Lecture on “Re-thinking Feminist IR in Moments of Global Crisis”

Dr. Shweta Singh, Associate Professor (SG), South Asian University, delivered a lecture titled “Re-thinking Feminist IR in Moments of Global Crisis: Possibilities and Challenges” at the St. Stephen's College, organised by the Political Science Society. The session explored critical perspectives within feminist international relations, particularly in the context of global crises and shifting geopolitical dynamics.

The lecture engaged participants in discussions on the challenges and possibilities of feminist approaches to international relations. It provided a platform for dialogue on gendered dimensions of global politics and contemporary theoretical frameworks.



Workshop on Feminist Peacebuilding and Resistance to Sexual Violence

Dr. Mallika Shakya, along with students from South Asian University, participated in a deliberative workshop on Feminist Peacebuilding and Resistance to Sexual Violence in South Asia, organised by Women in Security Conflict Management and Peace on 4 April 2026 at the India International Centre. The session featured a moderated conversation led by Prof. Krishna Menon, with Prof. Meenakshi Gopinath and Dr. Mallika Shakya, exploring themes of peacebuilding, gender, and resistance.

The workshop included a screening of the documentary *Devi Khadka: The Undefeated*, followed by collaborative student performances interpreting its themes. It brought together participants from South Asian University and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi, fostering creative engagement and dialogue on issues of gender and conflict in South Asia.



Valedictory Address on Humour and Society

Dr. Dev Nath Pathak, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, delivered the valedictory address at the History Department's Festival of Ideas at the Deshbandhu College on 7 April 2026. His address reflected on the changing nature of humour in contemporary society, raising questions on why jokes increasingly provoke anger rather than laughter. The talk emphasised the importance of cultivating a culture of humour and highlighted the role of joking relationships in maintaining a balanced and resilient society. It encouraged participants to reflect on humour as a social and cultural practice.



Keynote Address on Agriculture, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainable Development

Prof. Sunil Kumar Gupta, Dean, Faculty of Management, South Asian University, delivered a keynote address as Chief Guest at an international seminar on "Transformational Role of Agriculture in Entrepreneurship: A Step Towards Achieving Sustainable Development Goals" on 12 February 2026 at the Guru Nanak Dev University. His address highlighted the evolving role of agriculture in driving entrepreneurship and contributing to sustainable development. The session engaged participants in discussions on innovation, rural development, and the integration of agricultural practices with entrepreneurial initiatives. It provided insights into aligning agricultural transformation with broader sustainability goals.

SAU Bookshelf

Living & Dying Meanings in Maithili Folklore: *Exploring Life, Death, and Folk Philosophy in Mithila*

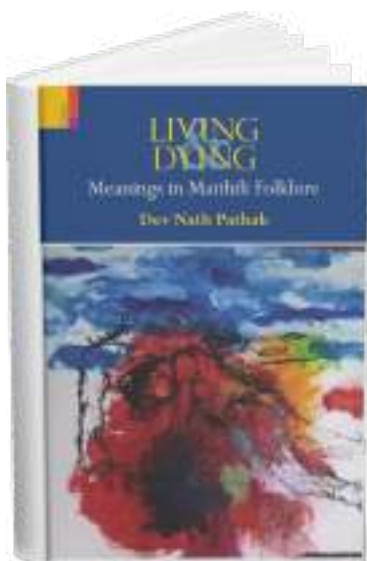
This month, SAU Connect highlights a rare monograph *Living & Dying Meanings in Maithili Folklore* by **Dr. Dev Nath Pathak**, published by Primus Books, which offers an interdisciplinary exploration of life, death, emotion, and cultural memory in Maithili folk songs and oral traditions. The book examines how the folk imagination in Mithila understands living and dying not as separate realities, but as interconnected experiences shaped by philosophy, ritual, gender relations, and everyday social life.

Dr Dev Nath Pathak is an academic and researcher whose work engages with the epistemological issues in social sciences, hermeneutics of folklore, literature, interface of visual arts and performance with an eye at pluralism in South Asia. Currently Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, he has spearheaded interdisciplinary ruptures and creative constructivism in teaching, learning and academic writing programs.

The courses that he offers to postgraduate and doctoral students encapsulate scening-sonic understanding of south Asia, performance and folklore, philosophy of social sciences, and most importantly, on laughter. He serves as one of the editors of *Society and Culture in South Asia*, a journal co-published with SAGE Publications India. In leisure he loves to curate visual-sound from surrounding to be a nomadic story teller.

The book moves beyond conventional sociological analyses centred on rituals and institutions, instead foregrounding the emotional and philosophical dimensions embedded in folk songs and oral traditions. Drawing from villages across Mithila in north east of Bihar abutting Nepal and Bengal, the book employs an interdisciplinary framework combining folklore studies, ethnomusicology, sociology, and social anthropology. Through interpretative readings of Maithili folk songs, the author reveals how living and dying are not perceived as separate experiences but as interconnected aspects of human existence deeply rooted in everyday cultural consciousness.

The book further examines how Maithili folk imagination negotiates themes of separation, sorrow, agency, gender, and mortality under the constraints of a patriarchal social structure. It highlights the role of women's songs in preserving, questioning, and reshaping social norms, thereby presenting women as active cultural agents despite structural limitations. Rejecting rigid binaries and positivist interpretations, the book proposes a holistic worldview in which death is understood as a continuation of life's emotional and social journey rather than an isolated event. By emphasizing hearing, memory, and collective experience as modes of understanding, the book contributes significantly to contemporary debates on death, modernity, and folk philosophy. Ultimately, it presents Maithili folklore as a rich philosophical archive that links the art of living with the art of dying through poetic and cultural expression.



Dr. Dev Nath Pathak, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Social Studies, South Asian University

Did you know?

Spring and Spiritual Traditions Across South Asia

April across South Asia marks a time of renewal, harvest, and new beginnings. As spring matures and the harvest season arrives in many parts of the region, communities come together to celebrate their traditional New Years, express gratitude for abundance, and welcome prosperity. These festivals, though diverse in name and custom, share a common spirit of joy, reflection, and cultural continuity.



Afghanistan – With the arrival of spring, communities engage in seasonal gatherings, cultural activities, and preparations linked to the agricultural cycle.



Maldives – The holy month of **Ramadan continues**, with fasting, prayers, and evening iftar gatherings strengthening community bonds.



Bangladesh – **Pohela Boishakh** (14 April) is celebrated with vibrant processions, music, and fairs, welcoming the Bengali New Year.



Nepal – **Nepali New Year (Navavarsha 2083)** on 14 April is celebrated with temple visits, cultural programmes, and family gatherings.



Bhutan – Communities observe local **tsechus** (religious festivals) in monasteries, featuring masked dances and spiritual rituals.



Pakistan – **Baisakhi** is observed in parts of Punjab with cultural festivities and harvest celebrations.



India – A diverse range of festivals including **Baisakhi, Vishu, Puthandu, and Bohag Bihu** (13-14 April) mark harvest and regional New Years across the country.

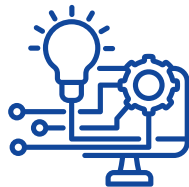


Sri Lanka – **The Sinhala and Tamil New Year** (13-14 April) is celebrated with traditional rituals, games, and festive meals symbolising renewal.

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

- Afghanistan (Dari): سال نو (Saal-e-Nau), (Pashto): نوی کال (Naway Kaal)
- Bangladesh (Bengali): নববর্ষ (Noboborsho)
- Bhutan (Dzongkha): ལོ་གསལ་ (Losar)
- India (Hindi): नव वर्ष (Nav Varsh)
- Maldives (Dhivehi): އަހަރު ޅަވަ (Aharu Aau)
- Nepal (Nepali): नयाँ वर्ष (Naya Barsha)
- Pakistan (Urdu): نیا سال (Naya Saal)
- Sri Lanka (Sinhala): අලුත් අවුරුද්ද (Aluth Avurudda), (Tamil): புத்தாண்டு (Puthandu)

Welcome On-board



Dr. Amit Kumar Shukla, Associate Professor and Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Teaching Fellow joined in the Department of Computer Science & Technology

Upcoming Events

April
4
2026

ACS Interactions: Skilling Pathway for a Future-Ready Workforce

April
4
2026

Lecture titled "The Curious Case of US-Iran Relations: Past is Prologue" by Dr. Monish Tourangbam, Research Fellow at the Chintan Research Foundation

April
5
2026

Webinar on "Climate Litigation in Asia: Courts, Rights, and Environmental Accountability"—exploring how legal systems across Asia are shaping climate action and environmental justice.

April
5
2026

Guest lecture on "Changing Landscape of Disaster in Himachal Pradesh" by Shri Prabodh Saxena, Former Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, and currently, the Chairman, Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited

April
6-7
2026

International Leadership Summit 2026

April
8
2026

Session on "Poetics of Unbelonging: Transition and Exile in Bengali-African Writings."

April
8
2026

SAU Presidential Distinguished Lecture Series titled 'Solving the Energy Crisis: Replicating the Sun on Earth' by Dr. Jyotsna Sharma, Faculty of Physical Sciences, South Asian University

facebook.com/southasianuniversity

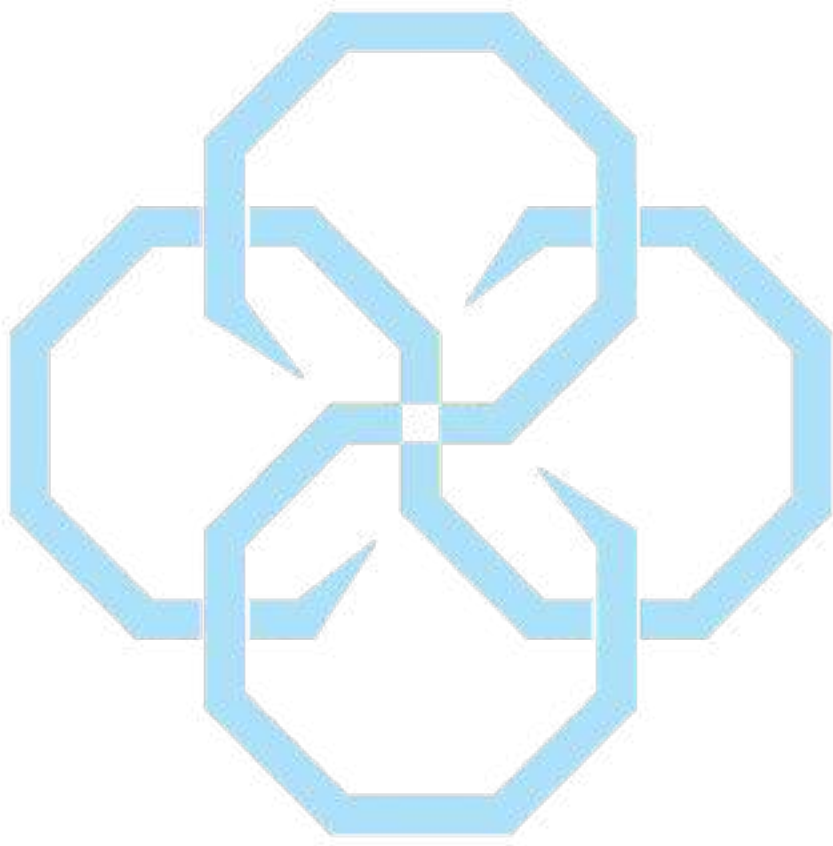
instagram.com/southasianuniversity

linkedin.com/school/south-asian-university

youtube.com/user/southasianuniversity

Print-line

- **Patron-in-Chief:** Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Honourable President
- **Patron:** Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi, Vice President, Prof. Pankaj Jain, Vice President, Prof. Pranab Muhuri, Vice President
- **Chief Editor:** Dr. Abinash K. Jha
- **Editor:** Pallavi Kaushik
- **Photographs of in-house activities:** Devender
- **Newsletter published by:** Dr Ravindra Soni, Registrar, South Asian University for educational purposes
- **Address:** South Asian University, Rajpur Road, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110068



SAU Click



Our Contact

South Asian University, Rajpur Road
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi 110 068



Phone :

+91 (11) 35656500



Email :

abinashjha@sau.int
pallavi@sau.int



Website :

sau.int