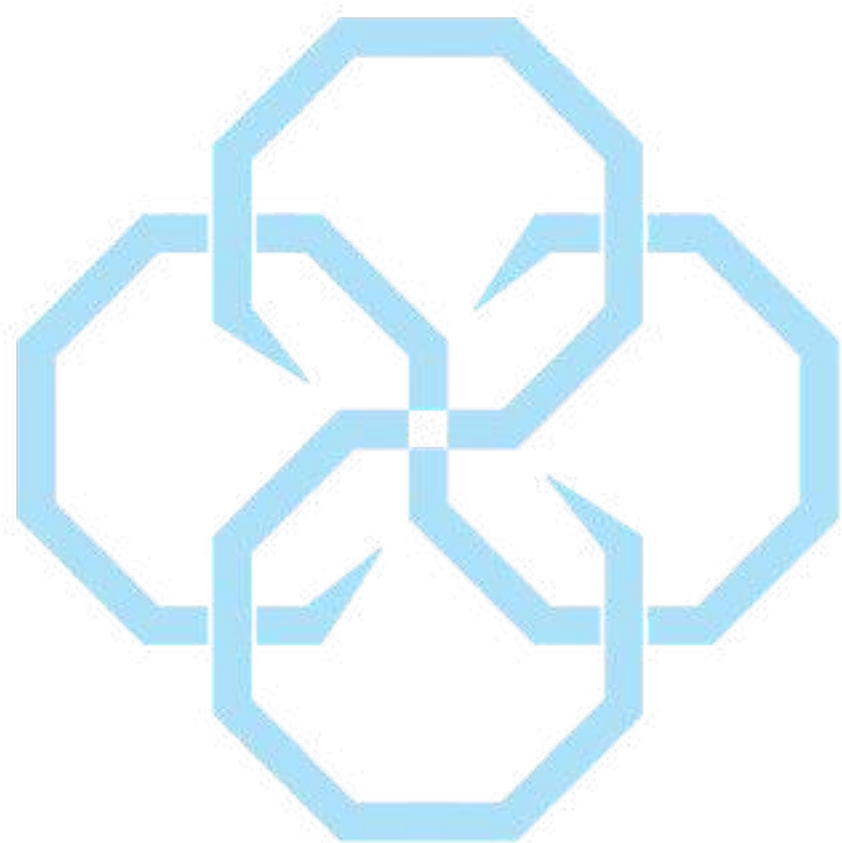




SAU
SOUTH ASIAN
UNIVERSITY

SAU CONNECT

Monthly Newsletter
May 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

The month of May 2026 reflected South Asian University's continued commitment to leadership, dialogue, and regional engagement. A defining highlight was the successful organisation of the International Leadership Summit 2026, which brought together national leaders, policymakers, industry experts. We were delighted to host Hon'ble Union Ministers Shri Nitin Gadkari and Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on their first visit to the SAU campus. Both leaders expressed appreciation for the University's academic mission, regional character, and modern infrastructure.

The month also featured several important engagements and interactions. I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, President of the Chintan Research Foundation, to explore avenues for collaboration in research, policy dialogue, and institutional development. We were also privileged to host Ambassador Rudrendra Tandon, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, whose visit provided an opportunity to discuss the University's academic achievements, regional mandate, and future growth trajectory.

These engagements strengthened SAU's growing network of partnerships and reaffirmed our commitment to academic excellence, regional cooperation, and transformative learning across South Asia.



From the Editorial Team

The month of May 2026 was marked by vibrant academic engagement, impactful collaborations, research excellence, and meaningful dialogue across disciplines at South Asian University. As an institution committed to advancing knowledge without borders, SAU continued to strengthen its role as a regional hub for scholarship, innovation, and leadership development.

A major highlight of the month was the successful organisation of the **International Leadership Summit 2026**, which brought together Union Ministers, policymakers, industry leaders, diplomats, academicians, and students to deliberate on leadership, technology, geopolitics, and the future of work. The summit also witnessed the launch of the **South Asian Enterprise Impact Centre (SAEIC)**, further reinforcing SAU's commitment to bridging academia, policy, and industry.

The University also hosted a diverse range of academic events, including distinguished lectures on science and spirituality, climate litigation, international relations, disaster resilience, and environmental governance. The roundtable on **Riverine Communities, Climate Vulnerability and Environmental Justice** and the India-Sri Lanka dialogue on healthcare and medical education reflected SAU's growing contribution to addressing regional challenges through interdisciplinary engagement and collaboration.

This issue also celebrates the remarkable achievements of our faculty members whose research continues to gain recognition in leading international journals and academic forums. Equally encouraging are the accomplishments of our students, who secured prestigious internships and professional opportunities across government institutions, international organisations, research centres, and industry.

As you explore this edition, we invite you to reflect on the breadth of activities that continue to define the SAU community—an institution where academic excellence, regional cooperation, innovation, and public engagement come together to shape the leaders and ideas of tomorrow.

Highlight of the month



South Asian University, in collaboration with the New Delhi Institute of Management (NDIM), successfully hosted the International Leadership Summit (ILS) 2026 on 6-7 May 2026 under the theme **“Leading Through Change: Geopolitics, Technology, and Institutional Leadership.”** The summit brought together an exceptional gathering of policymakers, ministers, diplomats, industry leaders, defence experts, academicians, and management practitioners to deliberate on the evolving nature of leadership in a world shaped by technological disruption, geopolitical uncertainty, and institutional transformation.

International Leadership Summit 2026: Leading Through Change



The summit was inaugurated by **Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India**, who delivered a powerful keynote address on the qualities that define effective leadership. Emphasising integrity, credibility, vision, and innovation, he highlighted the importance of ethical leadership and sustainable development in shaping the future. A major highlight of the inaugural session was the formal launch of the South Asian Enterprise Impact Centre (SAEIC) at the Faculty of Management, South Asian University. Conceived as a regional platform for applied research, executive learning, policy engagement, and institutional collaboration, the Centre aims to strengthen connections between academia, industry, and public policy across South Asia.

In his Presidential Address, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President of South Asian University, reflected on the challenges of leading in what he described as a BANI world—Brittle, Anxious, Non-linear, and Incomprehensible. He underscored the need for leaders to embrace technological change responsibly while maintaining human values and institutional resilience. Prof. Aggarwal also announced the University's upcoming specialised Master's programme in Intelligent Transport Systems, to be developed in collaboration with the Intelligent Transport System Society of India.

Over two days, the summit featured a series of expert sessions and discussions on artificial intelligence, geopolitical shifts, entrepreneurship, organisational transformation, academic leadership, and the future of work. Distinguished speakers explored how emerging technologies are reshaping institutions, industries, and leadership practices, while emphasising the importance of adaptability, innovation, and continuous learning.

A key attraction of the summit was the flagship panel discussion on "Technology, Economies, and the Future of Work Culture," which brought together leading voices from academia, industry, human resources, technology, and public service. The panel examined the impact of digital transformation on organisational culture, talent development, cybersecurity, and workforce preparedness in an increasingly interconnected world.

The summit concluded with a keynote address by **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India**. Addressing students, scholars, and professionals, he spoke on leadership, innovation, ethics, and India's remarkable technological transformation. Highlighting the importance of knowledge exchange and regional cooperation, he encouraged young leaders to approach the future with intellectual curiosity, integrity, and a commitment to positive change.



The International Leadership Summit 2026 served as a vibrant platform for dialogue and collaboration, reaffirming South Asian University's commitment to nurturing future-ready leaders and advancing conversations at the intersection of policy, technology, enterprise, and regional cooperation. The summit reflected the University's vision of fostering knowledge without borders and preparing the next generation to lead with purpose in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Research Spotlight

Emission Tracking and Sustainability Reporting: Insights from Indian Industry

By Shyamli Singh and Himanshi Negi, published the research paper titled "Sustainability and Emission Tracking in Indian Companies" in the journal Indian Journal of Public Administration.

Climate change continues to pose significant environmental, social and economic challenges worldwide, prompting governments, businesses and civil society organisations to strengthen sustainability initiatives and emission reduction efforts. As companies face increasing pressure from regulators, investors and stakeholders to disclose their environmental performance, sustainability reporting has become an important tool for promoting transparency and accountability. This research examines emission tracking practices among Indian companies operating in the power and energy and manufacturing sectors under the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework. Through an analysis of Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions disclosures, the study evaluates environmental performance and reporting practices across industries.



Research Objectives

- Analyse emission reporting practices under the BRSR framework.
- Examine Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions disclosures by Indian companies.
- Assess variations in emission intensity across sectors.
- Explore the role of sustainability reporting in promoting transparency and responsible business conduct.
- Identify measures that can strengthen environmental reporting and sustainability performance.

Background

Climate change has disrupted environmental systems, global supply chains and business operations, creating significant challenges for industries worldwide. In response, sustainability reporting has emerged as a key mechanism through which organisations communicate their environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance.

In India, the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework, introduced by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), provides a structured approach for companies to disclose sustainability-related information. The framework is aligned with the National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct and incorporates global sustainability principles and reporting standards.

Key Findings

The analysis reveals considerable variation in emissions across industries. Among the sectors examined, the power and energy sector demonstrates the highest emission intensity, highlighting the significant environmental challenges associated with energy production and distribution.

The study also finds that comprehensive emissions reporting can provide valuable insights into corporate environmental performance and support greater transparency for investors and other stakeholders. As sustainability reporting becomes increasingly integrated with business strategy, organisations are expected to strengthen their monitoring and disclosure practices.



Key Areas for Improvement



Stronger regulatory frameworks to support sustainability reporting.



Enhanced stakeholder engagement in sustainability initiatives.



Alignment of corporate reporting practices with global sustainability standards.



Greater adoption of technological solutions for emission monitoring and reporting.

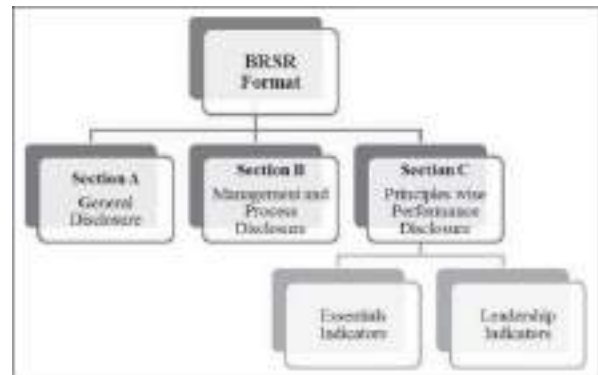


Improved transparency in environmental disclosures.

Research Contribution and Implications

The study contributes to the growing literature on sustainability reporting in India by providing insights into emissions disclosure practices under the BRSR framework. It demonstrates how systematic reporting of Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions can support corporate accountability and informed decision-making.

The findings also underline the importance of integrating sustainability considerations into business operations and governance structures. Strengthening reporting mechanisms can help organisations improve environmental performance while responding to evolving stakeholder expectations.



This research analyses emission tracking practices of Indian companies under the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework, with a focus on Scope 1–3 emissions disclosures in the power and energy and manufacturing sectors.

Conclusion

As climate change continues to shape economic and business priorities, robust sustainability reporting is becoming increasingly important. This study highlights the role of emission tracking and transparent disclosure practices in supporting responsible business conduct and advancing sustainability objectives. By strengthening reporting frameworks, embracing technological innovation and engaging stakeholders effectively, Indian companies can contribute to broader climate action efforts while building a more sustainable and resilient economy.



This research, titled "Sustainability and Emission Tracking in Indian Companies," was conducted by Shyamli Singh (Faculty of Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability, South Asian University), in collaboration with Himanshi Negi (Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, India), and published in the Indian Journal of Public Administration, Sage Journals.

Research and Publications

Research Publication on Post-Uprising Developments in South Asia Published in ISAS Insights

Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy's article on post-uprising political developments in South Asia has been published in ISAS Insights by the Institute of South Asian Studies. The article examines the diverse socio-political contexts that shaped popular uprisings across South Asian countries and analyses how these distinct national circumstances produced varying political outcomes and trajectories. Through a comparative perspective, the study offers valuable insights into the evolving political landscape of the region in the aftermath of these movements. The publication highlights the complexity of political transformations in South Asia and underscores the importance of context-specific analysis in understanding regional developments. It contributes to ongoing scholarly discussions on democratic change, governance, and political transitions across the region.

Research Publication on Green Finance and Green Innovation in the Journal of Economic Surveys

South Asian University congratulates Dr. Khanindra Ch. Das from the Faculty of Management and his co-authors on the publication of their research paper, "Green Finance and Green Innovation Literature: A Hybrid Review and Future Research Agenda," in the Journal of Economic Surveys (Wiley), a Scopus Q1 and ABDC-A indexed journal. The study provides a comprehensive review of the rapidly expanding literature on green finance and green innovation through a hybrid methodology combining bibliometric analysis and systematic literature review. Drawing on publications indexed in the Scopus database from 2019 to 2024, the research identifies six key thematic areas and employs the Theory-Context-Characteristics-Methodology (TCCM) framework to uncover research gaps and outline future directions for scholarly inquiry.

The publication contributes to the growing discourse on sustainable finance and innovation by offering a structured roadmap for future research. Its findings are expected to support academics, policymakers, and practitioners working towards environmentally sustainable economic development.

Research Publication on Virtual Team Motivation and Performance in Management Review Quarterly

South Asian University congratulates Dr. Vibhash Kumar from the Faculty of Management and his co-authors on the publication of their research paper, "Team Motivation and Virtual Team Performance: A Multilevel Meta-Analytic Assessment," in Management Review Quarterly (Springer Nature), a Scopus Q1 indexed journal with a CiteScore of 16.6 and an Impact Factor of 9.0.

The study examines the relationship between team motivation and virtual team performance through a comprehensive meta-analysis of 19 studies comprising 30 effect sizes and nearly 16,681 virtual teams. Using a three-level random-effects model, the research provides robust evidence on the factors influencing performance in digitally distributed work environments.

The publication offers valuable insights for organisations navigating the evolving landscape of remote and hybrid work. Its findings contribute to the development of effective team design, leadership strategies, and management practices for enhancing virtual team success in the digital age.



Research Publication on Novel Therapeutic Approaches for Breast Cancer in Drug Development Research

South Asian University congratulates Dr. Yuba Raj Pokharel, Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, and his research team, including PhD scholar Dr. Piyush Kumar, from the Cancer Biology Laboratory on the publication of their research article, "Exploring the Role of Novel N(4) Substituted 5,7-Dibromoisatin Thiosemicarbazones in Modulating PTOV1 Activity for Therapeutic Relevance in Breast Cancer," in Drug Development Research, a journal published by Wiley. The study investigates the therapeutic potential of novel thiosemicarbazone compounds in targeting PTOV1, a protein associated with the progression of breast cancer. By examining the molecular mechanisms underlying PTOV1 modulation, the research advances understanding of promising strategies for the development of more effective cancer treatments.

Research Publication on Live-Streaming Commerce and Customer Engagement in FIIB Business Review

South Asian University congratulates Dr. Ashish Gupta, Senior Associate Professor, Faculty of Management, on the publication of his research paper, "Decoding Live-streaming Commerce and Customer Engagement: A Review and Research Directions," in FIIB Business Review, published by Sage. The journal is indexed in ABDC-B and Scopus Q1 and has an Impact Factor of 2.8. The paper provides a comprehensive review of the emerging field of live-streaming commerce and examines the factors influencing customer engagement in digital retail environments. By synthesising existing research, the study identifies key themes, trends, and gaps in the literature while proposing directions for future scholarly inquiry.

Research Publication on Realism and Its Limitations in International Relations in Janus

South Asian University congratulates Dr. Anmol Mukhia from the Department of International Relations on the publication of his research paper, "Examining Realism and Its Limitations in International Relations," in the Portuguese journal Janus, which is indexed in Scopus. The paper critically examines the realist tradition in international relations theory, exploring its key assumptions, strengths, and limitations in explaining contemporary global politics. By engaging with evolving international dynamics, the study assesses the continuing relevance of realism while highlighting areas where the framework may fall short.

Research Publication on Realism and Its Limitations in International Relations in Janus

South Asian University congratulates Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy on co-editing a special issue of Kritika Kultura, a Scopus-indexed, peer-reviewed international journal of literary, language, and cultural studies published by the Literary and Cultural Studies Program of Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines. Guest-edited by Dr. Roy and Soongbeum Ahn, the special forum, "Homo Connectus and Fandom Activism: Fansumers as Cultural Transmitters," brings together ten scholarly contributions examining fandom as a dynamic space of cultural production, political engagement, and social transformation. The issue explores how digitally connected fans mobilise collective action, shape cultural visibility, and negotiate the opportunities and challenges presented by market forces and algorithm-driven platforms.



Collaboration



MoU Signed with CENJOWS to Advance Strategic and Defence Studies

South Asian University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS), a premier tri-services think tank functioning under the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, Ministry of Defence, Government of India. This partnership marks an important milestone in advancing academic collaboration and strengthening engagement in the areas of defence studies, strategic affairs, national security, and policy research.

The collaboration is designed to provide students and faculty members with greater exposure to contemporary security challenges and strategic thinking through a range of academic and professional activities. Under the MoU, students will have opportunities to engage with leading experts from the defence and strategic community, participate in seminars, conferences, workshops, and collaborative research initiatives, and gain first-hand insights into national security and joint warfare strategies. The partnership will also facilitate knowledge-sharing programmes that bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world policy and defence perspectives.

A key feature of the collaboration is the provision of internship opportunities for students of International Relations, Law, and Management, enabling them to develop practical understanding and professional skills in areas related to security studies, governance, public policy, and strategic decision-making. By encouraging interdisciplinary learning and research, the partnership will help students cultivate critical thinking, analytical capabilities, and a deeper understanding of emerging geopolitical and security issues. This collaboration reflects South Asian University's continued commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and experiential learning. By strengthening academia-defence linkages and creating new avenues for research and professional engagement, the University aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills required to contribute meaningfully to policy discourse and address the complex challenges of an evolving global security landscape.

Achievements

Student Selected for UNESCO MGIEP Youth Fellowship on Leadership for Peace & Sustainability

South Asian University congratulates **Mr. Inderpreet Singh (M.A. Sociology, Batch 2026)** on his selection for the prestigious **UNESCO MGIEP Youth Fellowship on Leadership for Peace & Sustainability** in South Korea. The fellowship brings together emerging young leaders from across the world to engage with issues of peacebuilding, sustainable development, and global citizenship. This achievement reflects Inderpreet's academic excellence, leadership potential, and commitment to creating positive social impact. His selection highlights the growing international recognition of SAU students and their active participation in initiatives addressing contemporary global challenges.



SAU Students Selected as Google Student Ambassadors

South Asian University proudly congratulates Mr. Yashveer Singh and Mr. Ansh Katiyar from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology on their selection as Google Student Ambassadors. The programme recognises students who demonstrate leadership, technical excellence, and a passion for innovation and community engagement. As Student Ambassadors, they will promote emerging technologies, organise workshops and awareness programmes, and help foster a culture of digital learning and innovation on campus. Their achievement reflects the talent, initiative, and growing global presence of SAU students in leading technology-driven programmes.



Students Secure Prestigious Internship Opportunities Across Industry, Government, Research, and Policy Institutions

South Asian University students continued to achieve remarkable success by securing prestigious internships and career-development opportunities across leading organisations in industry, government, research, public policy, and international affairs. Facilitated through the Centre for Entrepreneurship, Training & Placement (CETP) and the respective faculties, these achievements reflect the growing academic excellence, professional readiness, and global outlook of the SAU community.

Students secured opportunities with renowned organisations including Ericsson, ONGC, Nestlé, Airports Authority of India, National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), DeKulture Works, Taggify, Skill Scoop, Lumelight (CXC Infotech Pvt. Ltd.), and the SAARC Internship Programme. In addition, students from the Faculty of Life Sciences & Biotechnology earned internships at premier research institutions and universities such as CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Indian Statistical Institute, Ahmedabad University, Panacea Biotech, Shoolini University, Presidency University, and other leading organisations across India.

Notable achievements also included Mr. Inderpreet Singh's internship at the Office of Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, providing valuable exposure to public policy and governance. Further strengthening SAU's record of professional accomplishments, MBA students Anshika, Anjali, Aviral, and Diksha were selected as Management Trainees, marking an important milestone in their career journeys and reflecting the confidence placed in SAU graduates by industry recruiters.

These accomplishments underscore South Asian University's commitment to fostering experiential learning, industry engagement, research excellence, and professional development. The University congratulates all the students and wishes them continued success as they represent SAU across diverse professional and academic platforms.





New Course

Faculty Development Programme on Social Network Analysis

The **Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET)**, South Asian University, **in collaboration with IIITDM Jabalpur**, announced a six-day **Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Social Network Analysis** aimed at enhancing analytical and research capabilities among academicians, researchers, and industry professionals. Held from 25–30 May 2026 at the South Asian University campus in New Delhi, the programme explored the role of networks, relationships, and data-driven methodologies in addressing contemporary research challenges across disciplines.

The FDP featured expert-led sessions by distinguished academicians, covering both foundational concepts and advanced applications of social network analysis. Participants benefited from hands-on learning opportunities, interdisciplinary perspectives, and meaningful interactions with peers and subject experts. The programme provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and skill development, reinforcing SAU's commitment to advancing research excellence and academic capacity building.

Designed to bridge theory and practice, the programme encouraged participants to apply network-based approaches to diverse fields such as social sciences, public policy, business analytics, information systems, and engineering. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and exposing participants to emerging analytical tools and methodologies, the FDP contributed to building a vibrant research ecosystem and strengthening the capacity of educators and researchers to address complex real-world challenges.

Academic Activities

South Asian University hosted a distinguished lecture under the SAU Distinguished Lecture Series on Science & Spirituality on 22 May 2026. The lecture was delivered by Shri Arif Mohammed Khan, former Governor of Bihar and Kerala, who shared insightful perspectives on the evolving relationship between scientific inquiry and spirituality in contemporary society.

The session was chaired by Hon'ble SAU President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal and coordinated by the Faculty of Life Sciences & Biotechnology. The event commenced with a welcome address by Dean Prof. Ritu Gaur and provided a valuable platform for intellectual exchange, encouraging participants to reflect on the intersections of science, ethics, and human values.



Distinguished Lecture on Science and Spirituality



Internship Orientation Session on Climate Change and Sustainability

The Centre for Entrepreneurship, Training & Placement (CETP), in association with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability, South Asian University, organised an internship orientation session in collaboration with the Foundation for Development Initiative (FDI) for students of the Climate Change & Sustainability programme.

During the session, FDI representatives introduced students to internship opportunities in climate action, sustainable development, research, and community resilience. The interaction provided valuable insights into emerging career pathways in the sustainability sector and reinforced the importance of experiential learning in addressing environmental challenges.

The Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, South Asian University, organised a two-day international hands-on workshop on "Designing and Production of Synthetic Monoclonal Antibody" on 2-3 June 2026. The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to gain practical exposure to contemporary techniques and methodologies involved in antibody design and production.

Bringing together students, researchers, and faculty members, the programme offered valuable insights into advances in biotechnology and biomedical research while fostering skill development through experiential learning and expert guidance.



International Hands-on Workshop on Designing and Production of Synthetic Monoclonal Antibodies

South Asian University successfully hosted an ICSSR-sponsored Capacity Building Programme titled “Strengthening Research Competencies: From Paradigms to Publication,” bringing together researchers, scholars, and academicians for an intensive two-week journey of learning and professional development. The programme aimed to strengthen research capabilities by providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of contemporary research methodologies, academic writing, and publication practices.

The first week featured a distinguished lineup of resource persons who guided participants through diverse dimensions of the research process. Sessions covered research paradigms, Indian Knowledge Systems, decolonial approaches to knowledge production, research problem formulation, systematic literature reviews, hypothesis building, sampling techniques, qualitative and

mixed-method research, quantitative methodologies, meta-analysis, statistical techniques, questionnaire design, and scale development. Participants also gained hands-on exposure to emerging research tools and technologies, including AI-enabled applications and data analysis software. The programme provided a vibrant platform for intellectual exchange, critical reflection, and skill enhancement, equipping participants with practical tools to undertake rigorous and impactful research. Through interactions with leading scholars and experts, attendees developed deeper insights into the evolving landscape of social science research and scholarly publication.

As the programme entered its second week, participants carried forward valuable knowledge, renewed motivation, and strengthened research competencies. The initiative reflects South Asian University's commitment to fostering academic excellence, promoting high-quality research, and building a robust research culture across disciplines.



ICSSR-Sponsored Capacity Building Programme on Research Competencies



South Asian University hosted a roundtable on “Riverine Communities – Climate Vulnerability – Environmental Justice: Towards Inclusive River Basin Governance in the GBM Basin” on 15 May 2026. The event brought together experts, academics, legal professionals, and development practitioners to discuss climate vulnerability, environmental justice, and sustainable water governance.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President, South Asian University, who highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in protecting riverine communities and ecosystems. The discussions featured distinguished speakers from academia, international organisations, and civil society, and concluded with a plenary session by Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, focusing on pathways towards more inclusive and collaborative river basin governance across the GBM region.



Roundtable on Climate Vulnerability and Inclusive River Basin Governance

MBA students of South Asian University visited Pioneer Industries on 27 April 2026 as part of an industrial visit facilitated by the Centre for Entrepreneurship, Training & Placement (CETP). The visit provided students with valuable exposure to industrial operations, production processes, financial management practices, supply chain systems, and corporate work culture.

Through interactions with industry professionals and on-site observations, students gained practical insights into real-world business operations and managerial decision-making. The visit served as an important experiential learning opportunity, helping bridge the gap between classroom knowledge and industry practice. South Asian University extends its gratitude to Pioneer Industries for hosting the students and facilitating an enriching learning experience.



MBA Students Visit Pioneer Industries for Industrial Exposure



South Asian University hosted a closed-door roundtable on “Riverine Communities – Climate Vulnerability – Environmental Justice: Towards Inclusive River Basin Governance in the GBM Basin” on 15 May 2026. The event brought together experts and practitioners from academia, civil society, and regional organisations to discuss approaches for integrating riverine communities into governance frameworks across the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) Basin.

Organised by the Interdisciplinary Centre of Excellence on Climate Change, Green Transition and Sustainability, the roundtable featured a keynote address by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President, South Asian University, and a plenary session led by Prof. Mahendra P. Lama. The discussions highlighted the importance of collaborative, inclusive, and environmentally just approaches to river basin governance in South Asia.

The Interdisciplinary Centre of Excellence on Climate Change, Green Transition and Sustainability, South Asian University, hosted a guest lecture on “Changing Landscape of Disaster in Himachal Pradesh” on 5 May 2026. The lecture was delivered by Shri Prabodh Saxena, Former Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh and current Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited.

Drawing on his extensive administrative experience, Shri Saxena discussed the increasing impact of climate-induced disasters, including floods, extreme rainfall, glacier loss, and forest fires. He underscored the importance of sustainable development, effective early warning systems, and community participation in building climate resilience. The session was opened by SAU President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal and concluded with remarks by Prof. Pooran C. Pandey, Director of the Climate Centre.



Guest Lecture on the Changing Landscape of Disasters in Himachal Pradesh

South Asian University hosted a lecture under the SAU Thought Café Series titled “The Curious Case of US–Iran Relations: Past is Prologue,” delivered by Dr. Monish Tourangbam, Research Fellow at the Chintan Research Foundation. The session was chaired by Dr. Nabarun Roy. Drawing on historical and contemporary developments, Dr. Tourangbam examined the complex trajectory of US–Iran relations and their implications for regional and global geopolitics. The lecture provided students and faculty with valuable insights into international diplomacy, strategic affairs, and evolving power dynamics in West Asia. The session fostered engaging discussions and reflected SAU’s commitment to promoting informed dialogue on contemporary global issues.



SAU Thought Café Lecture on US–Iran Relations



India–Sri Lanka Dialogue on Healthcare and Medical Education

The Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology (FLSB), South Asian University, organised a hybrid meeting of healthcare experts from India and Sri Lanka on 2 May 2026 to discuss opportunities for strengthening healthcare systems and medical education in South Asia. Chaired by SAU President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, the meeting featured a keynote talk by Prof. M. Srinivas, former Director of AIIMS, New Delhi, on “Elevating Healthcare & Medical Education in South Asia.”

The discussion brought together healthcare professionals, policymakers, academics, and representatives from regional organisations to explore avenues for collaboration in public health and medical education. Participants highlighted the importance of regional partnerships and proposed greater academic and professional exchange between India and Sri Lanka to advance healthcare outcomes across South Asia.

The Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, in collaboration with the International Environmental Law Interest Group of the Asian Society of International Law, organised a webinar on “Climate Litigation in Asia: Courts, Rights, and Environmental Accountability” on 5 May 2026. The session explored the evolving role of courts and legal systems in advancing climate action and environmental justice across Asia.

The webinar featured expert talks by Prof. Jolene Lin of the National University of Singapore and Dr. Mostafa Naser of Edith Cowan University, Australia, who discussed recent developments in climate litigation and rights-based approaches to addressing climate change. Chaired by Dr. Stellina Jolly, the event provided participants with valuable insights into one of the most pressing legal and environmental challenges of our time.



Webinar on Climate Litigation and Environmental Justice in Asia

The Department of International Relations, South Asian University, hosted a lecture titled "New Directions in Climate Litigation", delivered by Prof. Archana Negi from CIPOD, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The lecture examined emerging trends in climate litigation across Europe, Africa, and South Asia, highlighting the evolving role of legal action in advancing climate accountability. Prof. Negi discussed key debates surrounding international climate negotiations and demonstrated how strategic litigation can influence climate policy and governance. The session provided valuable insights into the growing intersection between international commitments, domestic policymaking, and climate justice, fostering meaningful discussions among students and faculty.



Lecture on New Directions in Climate Litigation



Sociology Seminar on the Discourse of Prostitution in India

As part of the Sociology Seminar Series, the Department of Sociology, South Asian University, hosted a lecture by Dr. Juanita Kakoty, faculty member at the School of Liberal Arts, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, on 29 April 2026. The lecture examined the discourse surrounding prostitution in India through the lens of policy, activism, and advocacy.

Drawing on both abolitionist and pro-legalisation perspectives, Dr. Kakoty explored the complex social, legal, and ethical dimensions of the subject, encouraging critical engagement with contemporary debates. Chaired by Dr. Dev Nath Pathak and coordinated by Dr. Sumedha Dutta, the seminar attracted participation from faculty members and students across multiple disciplines.

The Faculty of Social Sciences at South Asian University organised an Interdisciplinary Conversations session on "Poetics of Unbelonging: Transition and Exile in Bengali-African Writings." The event brought together perspectives from the Humanities and Social Sciences to explore themes of displacement, identity, belonging, and cultural transition.

The discussion encouraged critical reflection on evolving knowledge frameworks and literary expressions within and beyond South Asia. By fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, the session provided a valuable platform for students and faculty to engage with contemporary debates on migration, exile, and transnational experiences through the lens of literature and social inquiry.



Interdisciplinary Conversation on Transition, Exile, and Belonging

Presidential Connect



Meeting with Chintan Research Foundation to Explore Institutional Collaboration

Hon'ble President of South Asian University, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, held a productive meeting with Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, President of the Chintan Research Foundation, to explore opportunities for institutional collaboration and knowledge exchange. The discussion focused on areas of mutual interest, including research partnerships, academic engagement, policy dialogue, and capacity-building initiatives.

The interaction reflected a shared commitment to fostering interdisciplinary scholarship and strengthening linkages between academic institutions and research organisations. The meeting marked an important step towards developing collaborative initiatives that can contribute to research excellence, innovation, and informed policy discourse in the region.

Both sides expressed interest in exploring future avenues for joint programmes, expert interactions, and collaborative research activities. The engagement reaffirmed the importance of partnerships in addressing contemporary challenges through knowledge creation, evidence-based research, and meaningful academic exchange.



SAU President Delivers Address at NDRI Annual Day in Nepal

Hon'ble President of South Asian University, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, delivered an address at the 23rd Annual Day of the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) in Kathmandu, Nepal, on the theme "Changing Landscape of Educational Philosophy and Learning Methods in the Digital Age."

In his address, Prof. Aggarwal highlighted the need to move beyond traditional examination-centric models of education and embrace approaches that foster creativity, critical thinking, innovation, and problem-solving skills. Emphasising the transformative impact of digital technologies on education, he underscored the importance of preparing learners to adapt to rapidly evolving global realities and contribute meaningfully to society.

He also stressed the growing significance of interdisciplinary learning, lifelong skill development, and technology-enabled education in shaping future-ready graduates. The address resonated with educators, researchers, and policymakers, encouraging reflection on the evolving role of higher education institutions in the digital era.



SAU President Shares Insights on Science, Innovation, and Nation-Building

Hon'ble SAU President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal featured in an exclusive interaction on Bharat Express' programme "Gyan Vigyan Ki Baat," where he discussed India's achievements in space exploration, scientific innovation, and technological advancement. Reflecting on the significance of the PSLV mission and India's growing scientific capabilities, he highlighted the role of research, innovation, and higher education in driving national development.

The discussion also explored the importance of nurturing a research-oriented academic ecosystem that encourages curiosity, innovation, and technological excellence. The interaction offered valuable insights into the contribution of science and academia to nation-building and future progress.

Prof. Aggarwal emphasised the need to strengthen scientific temper, promote cutting-edge research, and create opportunities for young minds to contribute to technological advancement. The conversation highlighted how universities can play a pivotal role in supporting innovation-led growth and addressing emerging societal challenges.



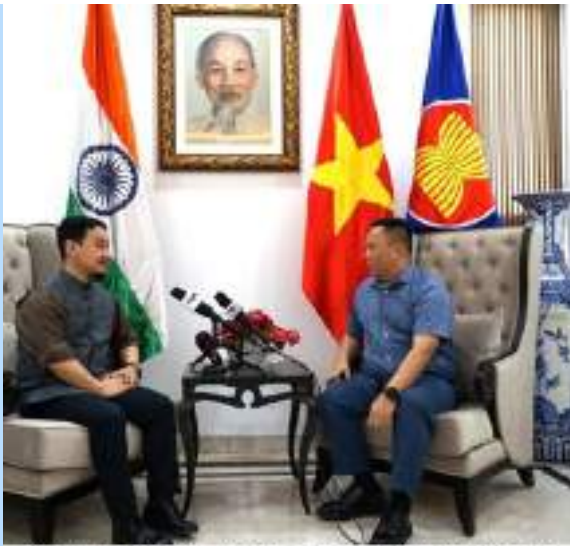
Ambassador Rudrendra Tandon Visits South Asian University

South Asian University was honoured to host Ambassador Rudrendra Tandon, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, during his visit to the University on 1 May 2026. He was welcomed by Hon'ble SAU President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, along with senior academic and administrative leadership of the University.

During the visit, Ambassador Tandon toured key facilities and interacted with University officials, discussing academic initiatives, institutional developments, and future growth plans. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase SAU's contributions to regional higher education and strengthen engagement with key stakeholders.

The discussions highlighted the University's role in fostering regional cooperation, academic excellence, and cross-border intellectual exchange among the SAARC nations. The University expresses its gratitude to Ambassador Tandon for his valuable insights and continued support for SAU's vision of advancing knowledge, collaboration, and regional integration.

Outreach Activities



Phó Giáo sư, Tiến sĩ Anmol Mukhia của Đại học Nam Á đã bị phỏng vấn VOV

SAU Faculty Featured in International Media on India–Vietnam Relations

Dr. Anmol Mukhia from the Department of International Relations, South Asian University, was featured in an interview with The Voice of Vietnam, the national radio broadcaster of Vietnam, on the occasion of the high-level visit of Vietnam’s General Secretary and President To Lam to India.

During the interaction, Dr. Mukhia shared his insights on the evolving strategic partnership between India and Vietnam, highlighting opportunities for enhanced cooperation in regional affairs, diplomacy, trade, and security. His participation in the interview reflects the growing contribution of South Asian University faculty to international policy discussions and global academic outreach. The engagement also underscores SAU’s commitment to fostering informed dialogue on contemporary international relations and regional developments.



SAU Bookshelf

Economics of the Food Processing Industry: Lessons from Bihar, India

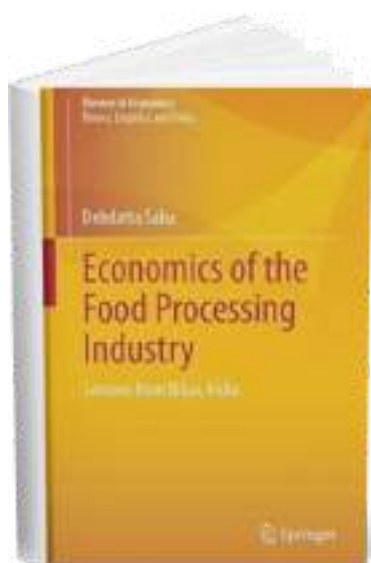
This month, SAU Connect highlights **Economics of the Food Processing Industry: Lessons from Bihar, India**, authored by *Dr. Debdatta Saha*, published by Springer Nature. This book presents a wealth of perspectives on studying the manufacturing end of food processing industries, with a special focus on regions with a low industrial base and multiple missing markets, institutional finance being the most prominent example. Positioning food processing within the industrial ecosystem, which includes entrepreneurs, policymakers, business consultants and associations, the study considers three different trajectories: for developed economies, for national territories like India, and for sub-national regions like Bihar. In turn, it shows how these trajectories intertwine in two dimensions: the region and the sub-sector. Successfully completing food-processing requires the development of product networks that link basic processed items with advanced ones through a chain of value addition.

Debdatta Saha is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics, South Asian University (SAU), India. Having worked as an economist at a leading public policy think-tank as well as an economist with India's competition regulator (Competition Commission of India) prior to her appointment at SAU, she has an abiding interest in issues concerning industrial structure, competition policy and entrepreneurship. Her doctoral research at the Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, on applied game theory in industrial organization, gave her valuable insights into the micro-foundations of

market structures and industrial outcomes. She has published multiple research papers with international journals and has presented her work at various prestigious platforms. This book is the outcome of her analysis of Bihar's food processing industry, a study which was sponsored by the International Growth Centre, London (with Dr Barna Ganguli, BIPFP (Bihar) as co-investigator). Various aspects of the food processing industry have been analyzed in this monograph, keeping in mind the context of a state with a low industrial base attempting to develop industrially.

Moreover, the supply-side narrative presented here identifies two types of costs: physical and non-physical costs of operation. For trajectories with skewed firm sizes ("missing middle") and missing markets, which can be found in Bihar, the latter costs matter just as much as the former in terms of entrepreneurship. While efficiency in operations is studied for selected sub-sectors in Bihar's food processing to assess the main sources of inefficiency in minimizing the physical costs of operations, non-physical costs are studied using the construct of region-based counterfactual thinking (rCFT) and its relationship with the perception of risk for entrepreneurs. rCFT offers a new concept for understanding the mindset of the entrepreneur, in which the regional identity plays a significant role.

The empirical content is based on a primary survey of food processing in Bihar. Additional policy questions, such as the choice between spatial collocation of food parks or cluster-based development of unique sub-sectors, are explored through an analysis of the policy network that supports entrepreneurship. Issues arising from the government's policy choices, particularly vertically targeted industrial policies, can influence industrial outcomes and are particularly relevant for regions like Bihar. While policy evaluation for Bihar's processed food industry yields insights on policy targeting for decision-makers in the government, examples of parallel narratives from global experiences in comparable regions shed new light on industrial development in processed food, which should be of interest to business practitioners, academic researchers and policymakers alike.



Dr. Debdatta Saha, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, South Asian University

Did you know?

A Month of Sacred Traditions Across South Asia

May across South Asia is marked by festivals and observances that celebrate compassion, generosity, and service to others. Across the region, communities come together to honour values of kindness, reflection, and shared responsibility through religious ceremonies, charitable acts, and family gatherings. From the teachings of the Buddha to the spirit of sacrifice associated with Eid al-Adha, the month highlights traditions that strengthen community bonds and encourage care for those in need.



Afghanistan – Communities observe **Eid al-Adha** with congregational prayers, charitable giving, and family gatherings that emphasise sacrifice, and support for those in need.



Maldives – Communities observe **Eid al-Adha** through special prayers, family visits, and festive gatherings that strengthen ties across the islands.



Bangladesh – Families prepare for **Eid al-Adha** with prayers, charitable giving, and community gatherings, bringing neighbours and relatives together.



Nepal – **Buddha Jayanti** is celebrated with prayers, processions, and visits to sacred sites, commemorating the birth of the Buddha and his teachings of compassion.



Bhutan – Communities observe **Buddha Purnima (Vesak)** through prayers, offerings, and teachings that promote compassion, mindfulness, and peaceful coexistence.



Pakistan – **Eid al-Adha** is marked by congregational prayers, family celebrations, and the sharing of meals with relatives, neighbours, and those in need.



India – Devotees celebrate **Buddha Purnima** at temples and pilgrimage sites, while many communities also observe **Eid al-Adha** through prayer, charity, and shared meals.

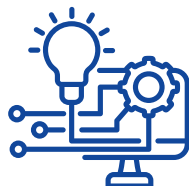


Sri Lanka – The **festival of Vesak** is celebrated with temple visits, lantern displays, devotional activities, and community initiatives promoting kindness and generosity.

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

- Afghanistan (Dari): خیریه (Khairiya), (Pashto): خیرات (Khairat)
- Bangladesh (Bengali): দান (Daan)
- Bhutan (Dzongkha): སྤོན་པ་ (Jinpa)
- India (Hindi): दान (Daan)
- Maldives (Dhivehi): ދަން (Dhan)
- Nepal (Nepali): दान (Daan)
- Pakistan (Urdu): خیرات (Khairat)
- Sri Lanka (Sinhala): දානය (Daanaya), (Tamil): தூணம் (Dhaanam)

Welcome On-board



Dr. Dr. Sandeep Kumar, and Dr. Anurag Tiwari joined in the Department of Computer Science & Technology as Assistant Professor

Upcoming Events

June
3
2026

Expert Talk on Mathematical Modeling by Prof. Ranjit Kumar Upadhyay

June
2-3
2026

Two-day Hands-on International Workshop on "Designing and Production of Synthetic Monoclonal Antibodies".

June
8
2026

Launch Ceremony of Study Materials /Books- 8 June (Monday) 2026

June
21
2026

Yoga Day 2026

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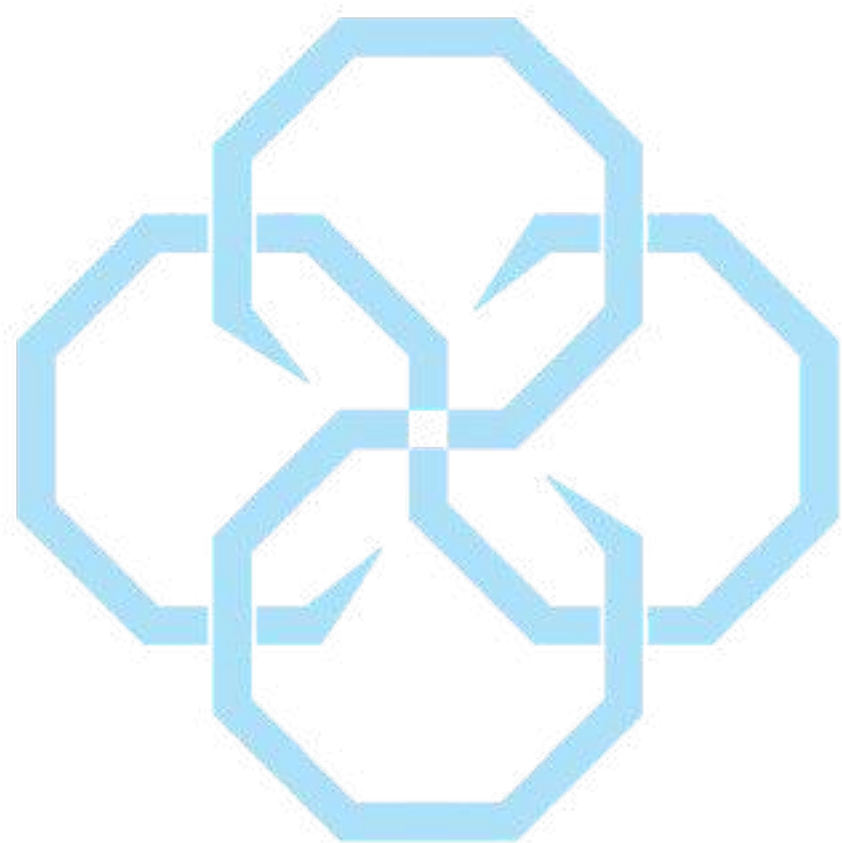
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Print-line

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- **Patron:** Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi, Vice President, Prof. Pankaj Jain, Vice President, Prof. Pranab Muhuri, Vice President
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