SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY

A University Established by SAARC Nations

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS

PLACEMENT CELL • FACULTY OF ECONOMICS •

SAU SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY

PLACEMENT BROCHURE

2024-25

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN FACULTY OF ECONOMICS, SAU

Faculty of Economics at South Asian University conducts the MA and Ph D programmes with a varied and unique combination of courses which not only strengthen the basic understanding of the discipline among the students but also offer the skill and expertise to study the live problems and analyse them with precision. Indeed, the programmes aim at imparting basic academic skills, analytical skills, application skills and global skills (job market related) through various methods and techniques.

A wide range of "Workshops, Seminars and Job-talks" are organized and study-tours are conducted to enhance the level of learning and grasp the real world situation thoroughly. The students of SAU have a strong footing in pursuing their independent investigation of the contemporary issues. They have been successful in getting absorbed in various think-tanks (government and private), international organisations, and the corporate world. Those with an orientation to continue higher studies for developing a solid academic career, too, find the courses helpful and intense.

Feedbacks on their performance level at the workplace are really thrilling and inspiring, which in a sense bring words of glory to the Faculty of Economics. Teacher-student interactions and intense discussions fasten the process of knowledge-gaining and makes the transition from classroom to job market smooth and promising. Our students always look forward to a brighter future!

Prof. Dr. Arup Mitra
Dean (Faculty of Economics)
Post Doctorate from Northwestern University, Evanston, USA
PhD from Delhi School of Economics

ABOUT SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY

The South Asian University (SAU) was established in 2010 as a pioneering initiative by the eight member states of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The formalization of the university took place with the signing of the "Inter-Governmental Agreement for the Establishment of the South Asian University" during the 14th SAARC Summit. Professor G.K. Chadha, a distinguished economist, former Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, and esteemed member of the Economic Advisory Council, was appointed as the founding president, embodying the vision and leadership necessary for the university's inception.

SAU stands out with its advanced postgraduate and doctoral programs across various disciplines, including Economics, Computer Science, Biotechnology, Mathematics, Sociology, International Relations, and Law. The institution's unique mission is to deliver an exceptional, globally competitive educational experience while simultaneously reinforcing the bonds among South Asian nations. It provides a dynamic intellectual environment, facilitating vibrant academic exchanges between students and faculty from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds, thus promoting greater regional integration and understanding.

FACULTY PROFILE

Dr. Arup Mitra
Professor & Dean
Post doctorate (Economics), Northwestern University, Evanston, USA, in 1995
Phd (Economics), Delhi School of Economics, in 1993

Dr. Binoy Goswani
Associate Professor
Phd (Economics), Guahati University, in 2013
Research interests: Agriculture and Natural resource Economics, Energy Economics, Institutional Economics

Dr. Debdatta Saha
Associate Professor
Phd (Economics), Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, in 2013
Research interest: Evaluation of firm performance, Economics of Innovation, Economics of Networks, Competition policy

Dr. Namrata Gulati
Assistant Professor (Senior Grade)
Phd (Economics), Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi
Research Interests: Time series analysis, Macroeconomics and Econometrics

Dr. Soumya Datta
Associate Professor
Phd (Economics), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, in 2011
Research Interests: Macroeconomic theory, Heterogeneous agent models, Nonlinear dynamics and complex systems, Behavioural finance, Mathematical epidemiology

Dr. Sunil Kumar
Professor
Phd (Economics), Guru Nanak Dev University, in 2000
Research Interests: Applied econometrics, Banking, Industrial Development

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS

NURTURING INTELLECTUAL EXCELLENCE & ADVANCING ECONOMIC SCHOLARSHIP

The MA Economics Department at South Asian University is dedicated to fostering analytical minds to take on the challenges of an evolving global economy. With a strong curriculum, diversity of students, encouraging research opportunities, and an emphasis on skill-building, our department aims to shape thought leaders equipped with economic insights and practical tools indispensable to industry and academia.

OUR VISION:

At SAU, our vision is to create a dynamic ecosystem where academic excellence meets real-world relevance. Our programs are designed not only to impart knowledge but also to nurture critical thinking, problem-solving, and leadership skills that are essential in today's competitive job market. Through active collaborations with industry leaders, internships, live projects, and mentorship programs, we ensure our students gain hands-on experience and build valuable professional networks. At SAU, we believe in shaping well-rounded individuals who are not only academically proficient but also industry-ready, confident, and capable of building fulfilling and impactful careers across diverse sectors.

OUR MISSION:

The mission of SAU's Placement Cell is to empower students with the tools, skills, and opportunities necessary to succeed in the professional world. We take a proactive approach in preparing our students for successful careers by fostering essential soft and technical skills through targeted workshops and training sessions. By establishing strong ties with industry leaders, corporate partners, and alumni, we create a bridge between students and the professional world. Through campus recruitment drives, internships, guest lectures, and networking events, we ensure students gain valuable exposure and connections. At its core, the Placement Cell is committed to guiding every student at SAU toward a fulfilling and rewarding career journey.

POSITIONS WE ARE PRIMED FOR

Graduates of South Asian University (SAU) are exceptionally equipped to excel in a diverse range of professional roles across multiple industries, thanks to their rigorous academic training and specialized expertise. The following roles align with the advanced skill set and knowledge base developed at SAU:

01. Economic Analysis and Research

- Expertise in econometrics and policy analysis
- Skilled in development and socio-economic research

02. Business Analytics

- Strong in data management and analysis
- Advanced statistical and business intelligence skills

03. Consulting and Model Development

- Expertise in quantitative & qualitative modelling
- Skilled in decision-support model design

04. Market Analytics

- Proficient in market research and forecasting
- Skilled in strategic decision-making

05. Efficiency and Productivity Analysis

- Proficient in performance measurement using frontier techniques
- Skilled in evaluating productivity dynamics and benchmarking efficiency across sectors

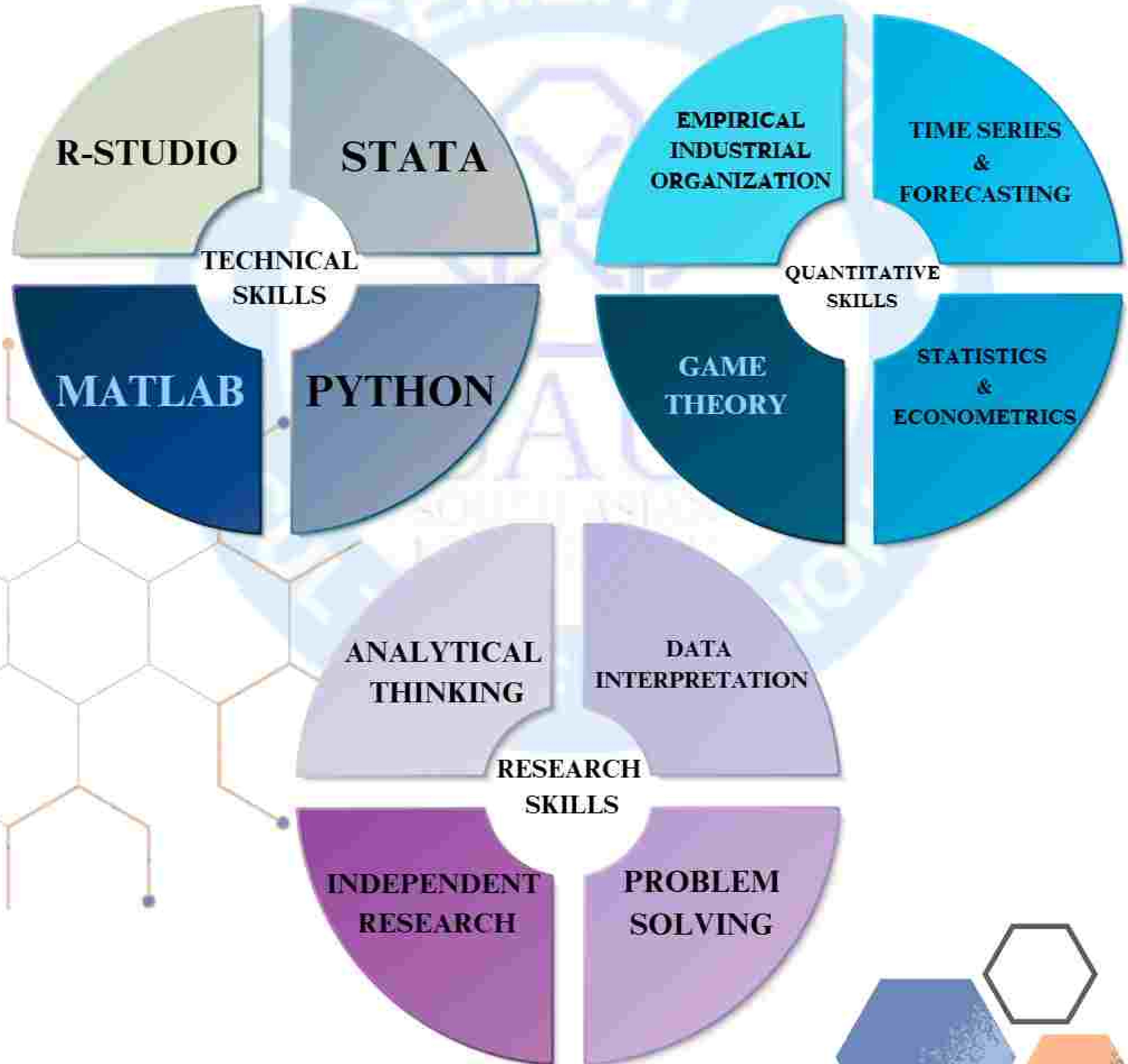
06. Policy Research and Development Strategy

- Specialized in development economics and policies
- Skilled in sustainable growth strategies

WHY SELECT US?

Hiring graduates from South Asian University is a strategic investment in a team equipped with advanced analytical expertise and a comprehensive understanding of economic issues regionally and globally. Our graduates are proficient in applying sophisticated statistical and econometric methodologies, utilizing industry-standard tools such as STATA, R, and MATLAB for advanced data analysis and modelling. They can distill complex datasets into actionable insights, making them highly valuable in economic research, finance, and policy analysis roles. With a robust foundation in theoretical and practical economics, our graduates are effective problem solvers and critical thinkers adept at navigating contemporary economic challenges.

SKILL SET WE INHERIT:



STRUCTURE OF MASTERS IN ECONOMICS

The Faculty of Economics offers a unique Master's programme in Economics specializing in Economic Development. The course focuses on development economics and brings to the front the critical economic issues and quantitative aspects with a strong emphasis on developing an application-based approach.

The programs introduce students to the intellectual breadth, theoretical rigour, and empirical skills necessary for conducting advanced research, teaching, and working on economic development issues in the South Asian region.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

The duration of the Masters program is two years (four semesters). Students must complete a 64-credit coursework consisting of 9 core courses, optional courses (each worth four credits), and a dissertation (eight credits).

YEAR I	YEAR II
CORE COURSES (SEMESTER 1 & 2)	**CORE COURSES (SEMESTER 3 & 4)**
Microeconomics-I & II **Macroeconomics-I & II** **Development Economics-I & II** **Mathematical Methods in Economics** **Statistics and Introductory Econometrics** **Directed Readings and Presentations** **Computer Lab Applications**	**South Asian Economic Development** **Optional Course I** **Optional Course II** **M.A. Dissertation (spread over III & IV)** **Optional Course III** **Optional Course IV** **Optional Course V**

OPTIONAL COURSES

Spread over Semesters III and IV, students choose five optional courses, covering advanced economic theory, methods, and applications. These courses also assist in writing an M.A. dissertation. Course offerings may vary each semester based on faculty availability and student interest.

Time Series Analysis/ Topics in Applied Econometrics	**Econometric Methods**
Environmental Economics	**Efficiency and Productivity Analysis**
Game Theory	**Industrial Organisation**
Topics in Urban and Labor Economics	**Computational Macroeconomics**

INTERNSHIPS

NITI Aayog

EY

GROUND ZERO

PLANT-A INSIGHTS GROUP

VYUHAA MED DATA

CONFLUENCE CONSULTING

EVEPAPER

TRADEWIND TECHNOLOGIES

IFC INSTITUTE for COMPETITIVENESS

AIDIA

ISID

Government of India
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

RIS Research and Information System for Developing Countries

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

fssai

Fair Competition For Greater Good

BATCH STATISTICS

FACULTY : STUDENT RATIO

1 : 8

Batch size
60

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Public Policy

Research & strategy

Quant Analysis

Internship Domains

Consulting

Market Research

Data analytics

WORKSHOP ON MACHINE LEARNING AND ECONOMICS (WMLE)

The Machine Learning and Economics Workshop held in October 2024 at South Asian University, under the guidance of Dr. Debdatta Saha, was a milestone in integrating advanced technology with economic theory. Highlighting the transformative role of machine learning in enhancing economic decision-making, policy analysis, and market forecasting, the event brought together economists, data scientists, and legal experts to foster interdisciplinary collaboration.

A key feature was the panel discussion on "Value Creation in Digital Markets," with insights from Dr. Vikas Kathuria (BML Munjal University), Mr. Atul Kumar (Data Security Council of India), and Dr. Poulomi Bhattacharya (CEO, SilverGenie Pvt Ltd), focusing on digital market regulation, cybersecurity, and the care economy. The workshop empowered attendees with innovative tools and knowledge to address challenges in tech-driven economies and stay at the forefront of emerging trends.

ECONOMICS SEMINAR SERIES

The Faculty of Economics, South Asian University, regularly conducts thriving seminars, where reputed professors from various universities and economic advisors from renowned organisations share their research experiences and works in their respective fields and interact with students and faculty members. Some of the seminars conducted include :

'Affirmative action, faculty productivity, and caste interactions: Evidence from Engineering colleges in India' by Gagandeep Sachdev (August 14th, 2024)

The study highlighted that affirmative action policies in Indian engineering colleges have minimal efficiency losses, with reservation category faculty fostering comparable or better student outcomes, especially benefiting students from similar backgrounds.

'Performance of Indian Manufacturing: GDP Share and Job Creation' by Bishwanath Goldar (August 21st, 2024)

The seminar reviewed India's manufacturing sector performance between 2003 and 2018, which grew significantly, outpacing services and showing positive trends, but job creation remained limited, with recent growth driven by informal employment.

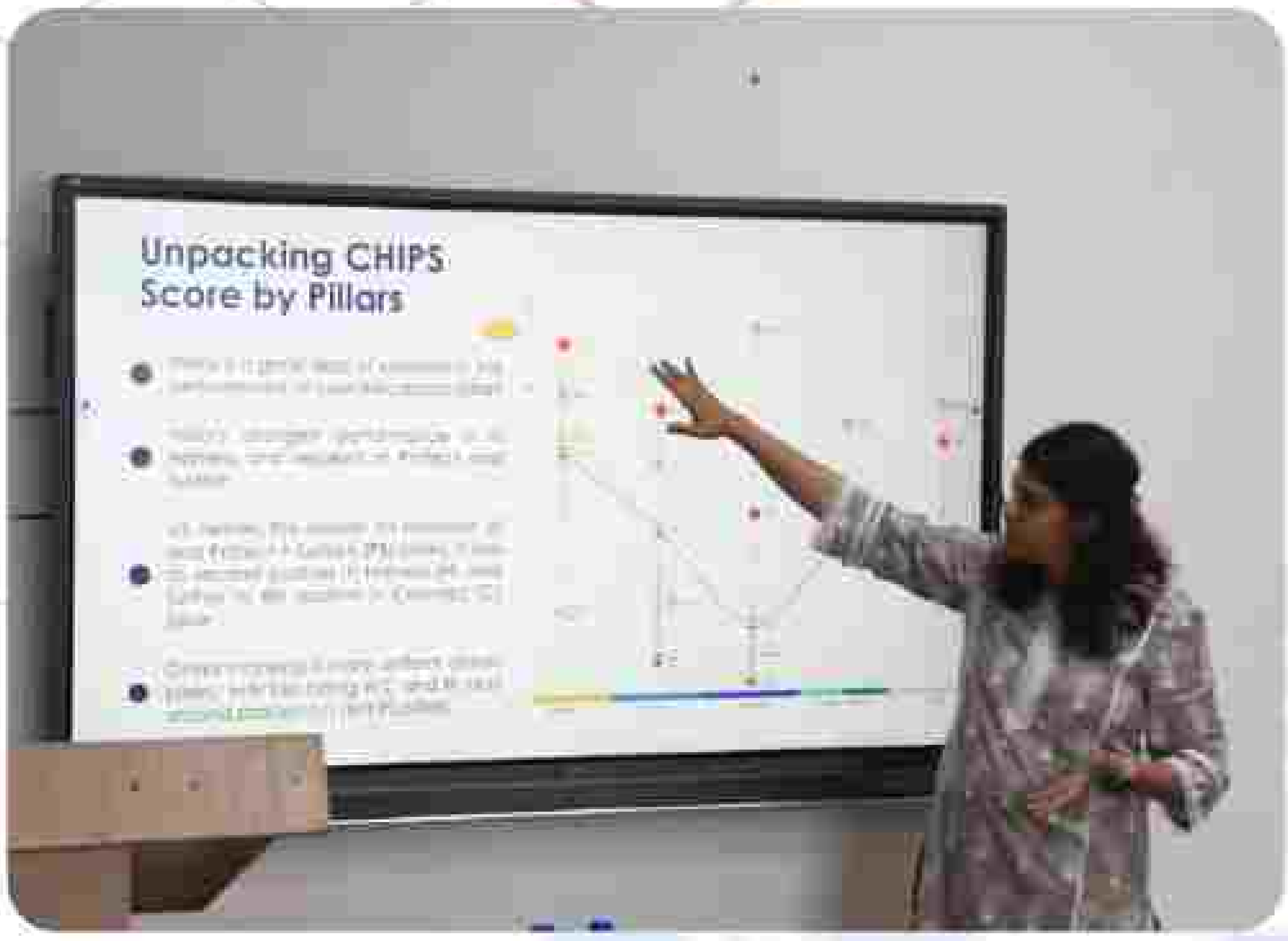
‘The NCQG: Decoding the Decision’ by Ms Chandni Raina, Advisor, Ministry of Finance (February 28th, 2025)

The seminar provided valuable insights into the historical evolution of climate finance and the importance of multilateral agreements in shaping global efforts to address climate change. It highlighted the critical role developed nations play in fulfilling their climate finance commitments under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the Paris Agreement's goal of providing financial support to developing countries. The discussion also touched on the Baku to Belem Roadmap, setting the stage for COP 30 in 2025, emphasising the expectations for more robust climate finance mechanisms. A key takeaway was the private sector's essential role in mobilising climate finance, alongside the significant challenges faced by developing nations in accessing private capital, as well as credit rating constraints that hinder their ability to attract necessary investments for sustainable development.

‘Cooling Infrastructure for Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Development in LMICs- A Comprehensive Framework for Steering the Way Forward’ by Robin Singhal (January 29th, 2025)

The seminar highlighted how the role of cooling infrastructure in economic development is often overlooked, yet it is crucial for sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) facing rising temperatures and growing energy demands.

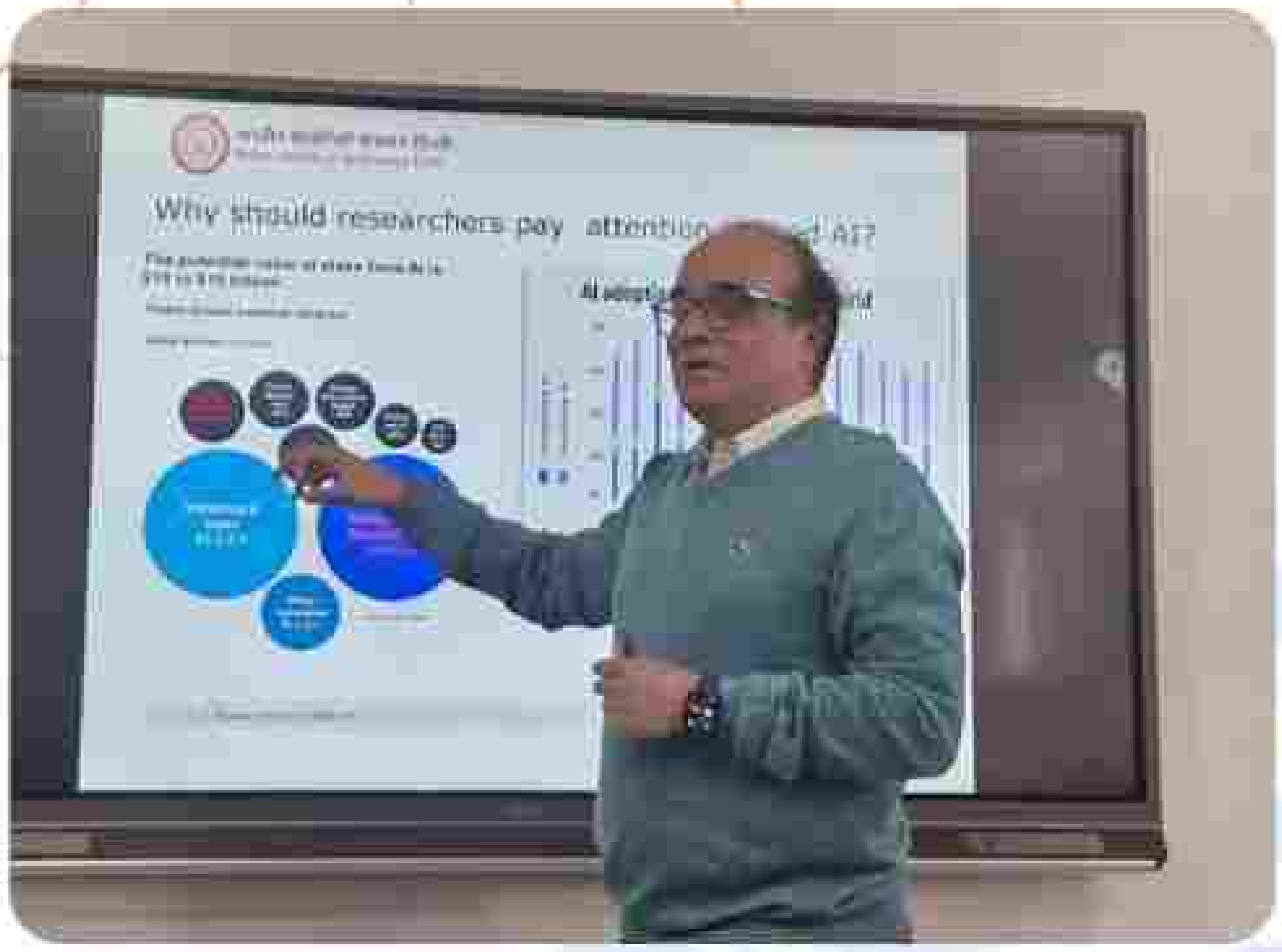
ECONOMICS SEMINAR SERIES



'State of India's Digital Economy' by Dr. Mansi Kedia, ICRIER (April 16th, 2025)

Dr. Kedia shared findings from the ICRIER Digital Economy 2025 report, which presented an evolved framework to assess digitalisation, particularly tailored for developing economies.
Key Takeaways from the Seminar:

- Unlike the predictable and linear digital transitions of developed economies, India's journey was marked by structural constraints and unique socio-economic dynamics. The session highlighted how India's digital expansion is deeply interconnected to its informal economy, demographic diversity, and policy environment.
- To move beyond the limitations of traditional global indices, the ICRIER report proposed the CHIPS Framework as a multidimensional tool to evaluate digital transformation. This approach captured the realities of India, where innovation often emerged informally and governance mechanisms were constantly evolving.
- A critical takeaway from the seminar was the inadequacy of existing global digital rankings in capturing India's scale, heterogeneity, and informal sector-led innovation. She emphasised frameworks that reflect on-the-ground complexities rather than one-size-fits-all models.

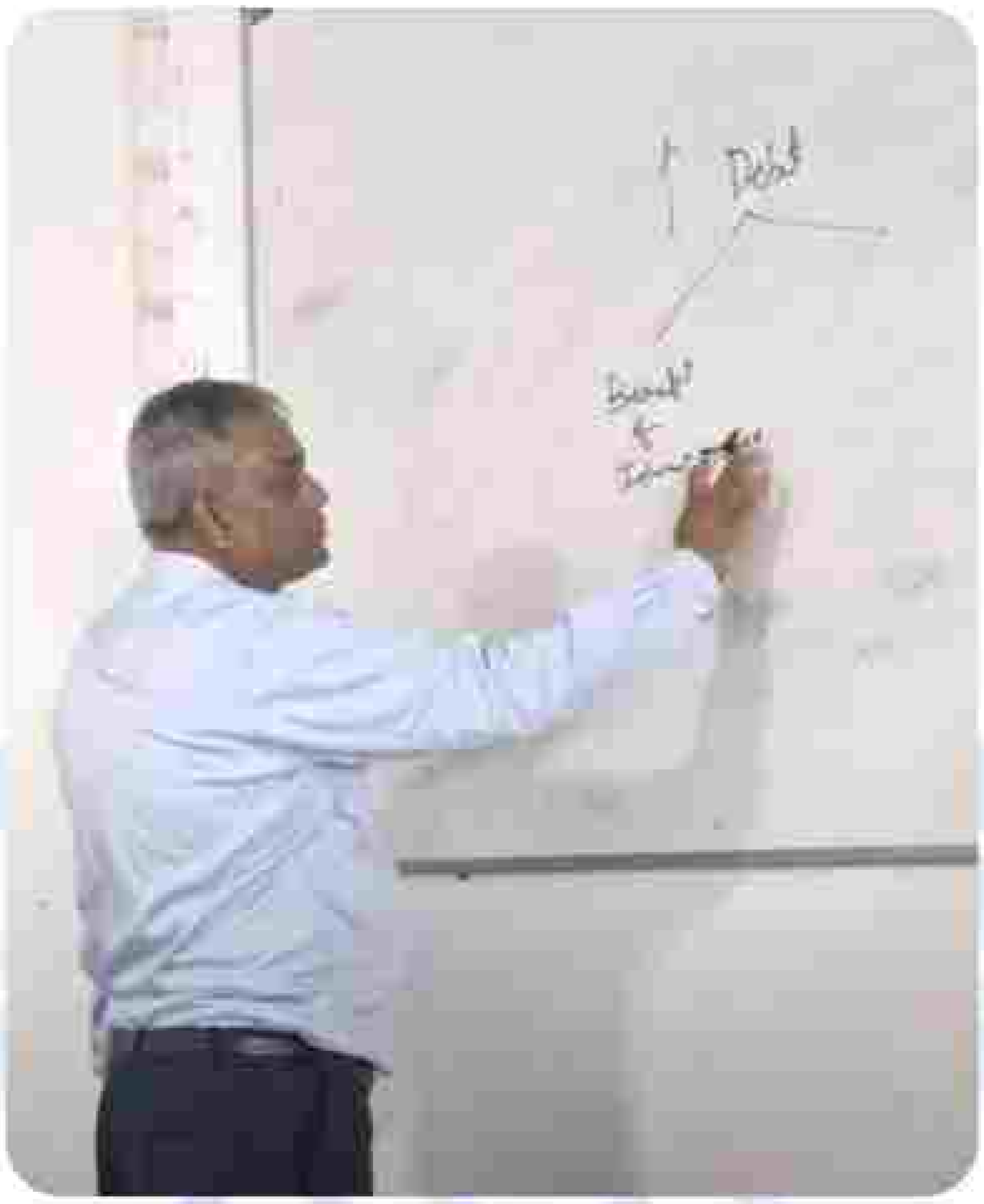


'Synergy-focused Product Recovery for Sustainable Supply Chain System' by Prof.Jitender Madaan, Dept. of Management Studies, IIT Delhi (February 19th, 2025)

The seminar explored the growing importance of product recovery in sustainable supply chains amidst rapid technological changes and shrinking product life cycles. Prof. Madaan introduced the Reverse Enterprise System, highlighting how strategic recovery operations can boost profitability while meeting strict environmental norms. He discussed the challenges such as product quality variation, changing consumer demands and logistical complexity. The core takeaway: product recovery should be seen as a strategic advantage, not just an obligation.

'Trump's Tariff War: Implications for India' by Prof. Shahid Ahmed, Dept. of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia (April 23rd, 2025)

The seminar explored the global impact of Trump's tariff hikes with a focus on India's trade dynamics. Prof. Ahmed noted limited effects on India's GDP overall, but highlighted significant challenges for labour-intensive export sectors. The discussion also touched on the broader concerns about the risk of a worldwide economic slowdown if trade tensions continue unchecked. The session highlighted the need for targeted fiscal measures to help vulnerable sectors cope with trade shocks.



'Economic Effect of Leverage on Value of Business' by Prof. Pankaj Sinha, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi (February 5th, 2025)

The seminar explored the role of leverage in influencing a company's growth prospects and valuation. Prof Sinha explained that while moderate debt can boost returns and pursue expansion, excessive leverage often poses significant risks. The discussion emphasised balancing funding growth with financial stability, emphasising the importance of cash flow management. Participants learned how leverage affects profitability, investor perception and long-term sustainability.

ALUMNI TALK SERIES

The Placement Cell at South Asian University (Faculty of Economics) regularly organises Alumni Talk sessions to connect current students with graduates who have established themselves across diverse fields. These interactive sessions, held both online and on campus, offer practical insights into career paths, industry trends, and professional development. By sharing their experiences and guidance, our alumni help students navigate opportunities and challenges beyond the classroom. This is one of our initiatives to foster a strong professional network that benefits both students and alumni. So far, we have organised the following sessions:

JOB PROSPECTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR" BY MR. ABHISHEK YADAV, SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AT J-PAL

The seminar highlighted the diverse career roles in the development sector, emphasising the importance of data analysis, econometrics, and tools like Stata, R, and Python. Proficiency in RCTs and practical skills like data cleaning, structured thinking, and research question formulation were stressed for entry-level roles. Networking through LinkedIn and connections with faculty was encouraged. Additionally, strong academic performance, technical skills, and the ability to explain research clearly during interviews were seen as essential for success in this field.

CAREER PROSPECTS IN PUBLIC POLICY" BY MR. SHARLO ZACK, BUSINESS CONSULTING AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AT INTELLECAP

The session explored career avenues across five sectors—government, consulting, corporates, multilaterals, and philanthropies—highlighting their pros, challenges, and work dynamics. It emphasised that policy roles go beyond research, involving monitoring, evaluation, and continuous learning. Adaptability and frequent upskilling were presented as essential in consulting careers. Students were advised to tailor their CVs with both quantitative and qualitative strengths, and align them with the role's mission. Networking is vital for consulting and corporate roles, while government positions rely on official portals. Policy impact is possible even without entering politics, through think tanks and implementation roles.

ASK ME ANYTHING: Q&A SESSION" BY MS. PAYAL SHARMA, YOUNG PROFESSIONAL, ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER

The session explored diverse career paths in economics, including corporate roles, research, think tanks, policy, and academia. Ms Sharma emphasised proactive networking and research to secure RA roles, and highlighted opportunities in government like RBI and IES, recommending self-study and test series for exam prep. Teaching through NET and pursuing a PhD were discussed for academic careers. Technical skills like Stata, Python, Excel, and Power BI were stressed for real-world problem-solving. Lastly, gaining clarity on PhD goals through prior research experience was advised.

THE OUTCOME SAYS LITTLE: MY CAREER JOURNEY IN ECONOMICS" BY MS. PALLAK GOYAL, RBI-DEPR

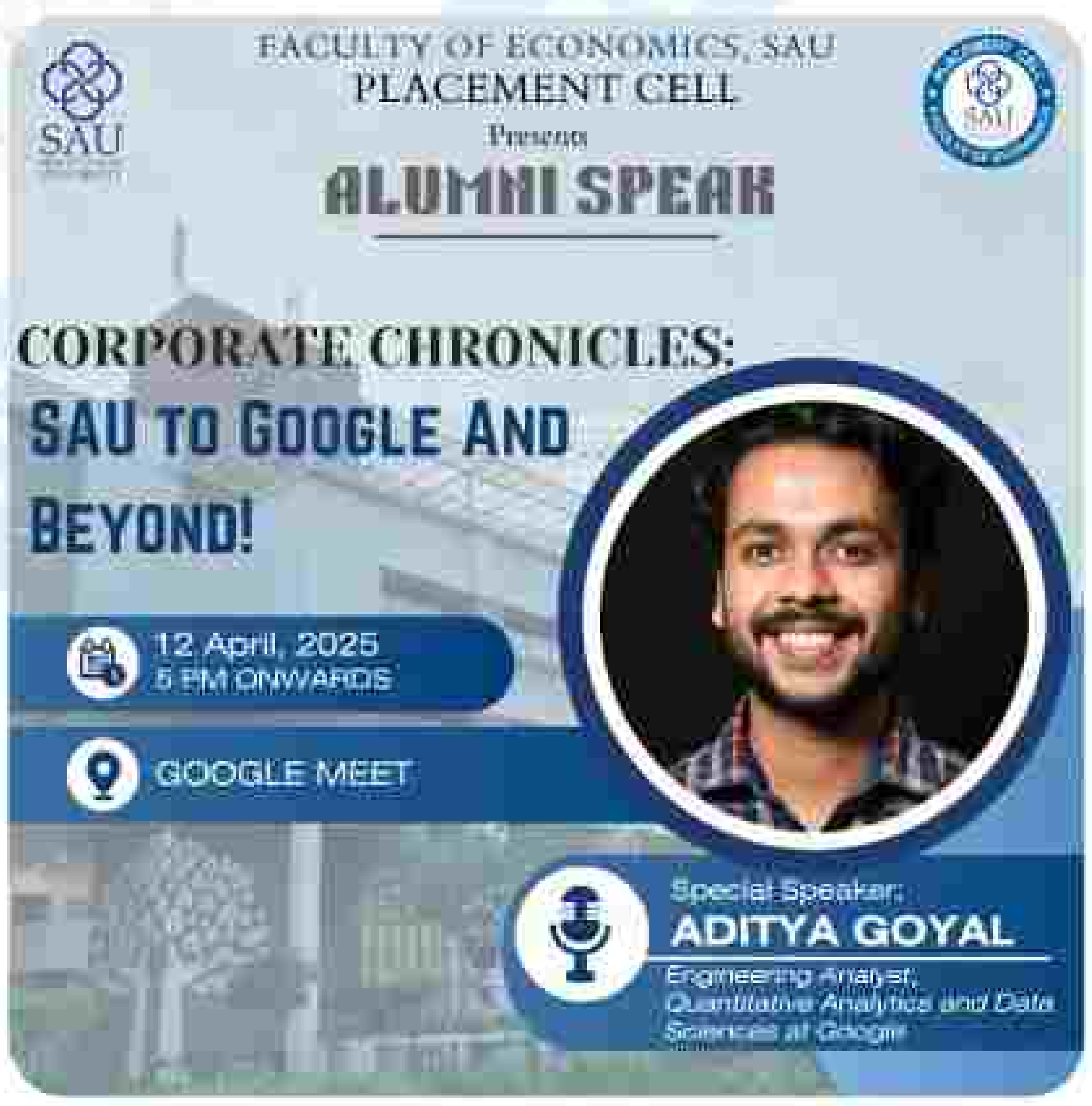
The session highlighted the importance of a strong academic foundation through well-written dissertations and term papers. Emphasis was placed on upskilling with programming and online courses, and leveraging alumni networks and LinkedIn for an effective job search. Soft skills such as negotiation and structured note-taking methods were encouraged. Students were advised to stay focused, prepare for unexpected exam questions, and confidently explain gaps during interviews. Learning portals like NPTEL were recommended to enhance knowledge and credibility. The session overall underscored the value of resilience, smart preparation, and continuous learning.

BRIDGING THE GAP: TRANSITION FROM COLLEGE TO CORPORATE" BY MS. TANVI SOOD, SPECIALIST MARKETING SCIENTIST AT YUM BRANDS

The session emphasised mastering tools like Excel, SQL, Power BI, Python, and R, along with soft skills like communication, collaboration, and time management. Students were encouraged to take initiative, ask questions, and own their responsibilities—even when mistakes occur. Building credibility through internships, certifications, and real-world projects was stressed. Office politics should be avoided by focusing on adding value. Lastly, the mindset of "progress over perfection" and continuous learning through networking was promoted for long-term professional growth.

CORPORATE CHRONICLES: SAU TO GOOGLE AND BEYOND" BY MR. ADITYA GOYAL, ENGINEERING ANALYST, QUANTITATIVE ANALYST AND DATA SCIENCES AT GOOGLE

The session highlighted how concepts from economics and statistics are foundational to corporate decision-making and project execution. It clarified the differences between data analyst and data scientist roles, emphasising their distinct contributions to insights and modelling. Proficiency in tools like SQL, Python, Excel, R, Tableau, and ML frameworks was encouraged for deeper data fluency. Communicating insights through storytelling and real-world application was stressed as equally important. A growth mindset, adaptability, and learning through platforms, forums, and communities were promoted as essentials for evolving in the corporate world.



ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

My time at South Asian University (SAU) was foundational in shaping my thinking and approach to development and public policy. The intellectually rigorous coursework, combined with the diversity of perspectives brought by classmates from across South Asia, expanded my analytical toolkit and deepened my understanding of regional development challenges. The faculty's emphasis on empirical methods and critical thinking continues to inform my work today in evidence-based policy research. SAU wasn't just an academic space, it was a launchpad that connected theory with the realities of the field.

Abhishek Yadav
Senior Research Associate, Digital Agri PMU, MoA&FW

At SAU I got sound technical training that allowed me to handle any problem in Economics. I am most thankful to the faculty for being approachable and helping ignite fresh ideas everyday.

Pallak Goyal
DEPR Manager, RBI

As a master's student at the South Asian University from 2015-17, I studied alongside students and faculty from several countries that belonged to the SAARC geo-political group. The University created a unique space by exemplifying strength in its diversity, and our similar histories, diverse cultures, and numerous experiences brought rich and intense discussions in every class. Finance, poverty, economic history, and political thought meant something to each of us. This played a major role in sensitizing me towards various issues beyond borders that were interwoven with our identities and carry that into the work I do

Pratyoosh Kashyap
Research Scientist, Virginia Tech Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

It's been six years since I graduated from South Asian University with a Master's in Economics, and even today as a Senior Associate in Business Consulting & Research at Intellecap, I find myself returning to the economics toolkit I built at SAU. Courses in Industrial Organization, Development Economics, Econometrics, and Macroeconomics laid a foundation that still shapes how I think and work in the public policy and development space. What made SAU special was not just the academics, but the diversity of peers and perspectives that taught me how to approach real-world challenges with empathy and critical thinking. For anyone aspiring to make an impact in policy, research, or development, SAU offers both intellectual grounding and a sense of purpose that stays with you long after you graduate.

Sharlo Zack
Senior Associate, Business Consulting & Research at Intellecap

COMPANIES OUR ALUMNI ARE ASSOCIATED WITH

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NCAER
pwc
Reserve Bank of India
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CHEORS

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