

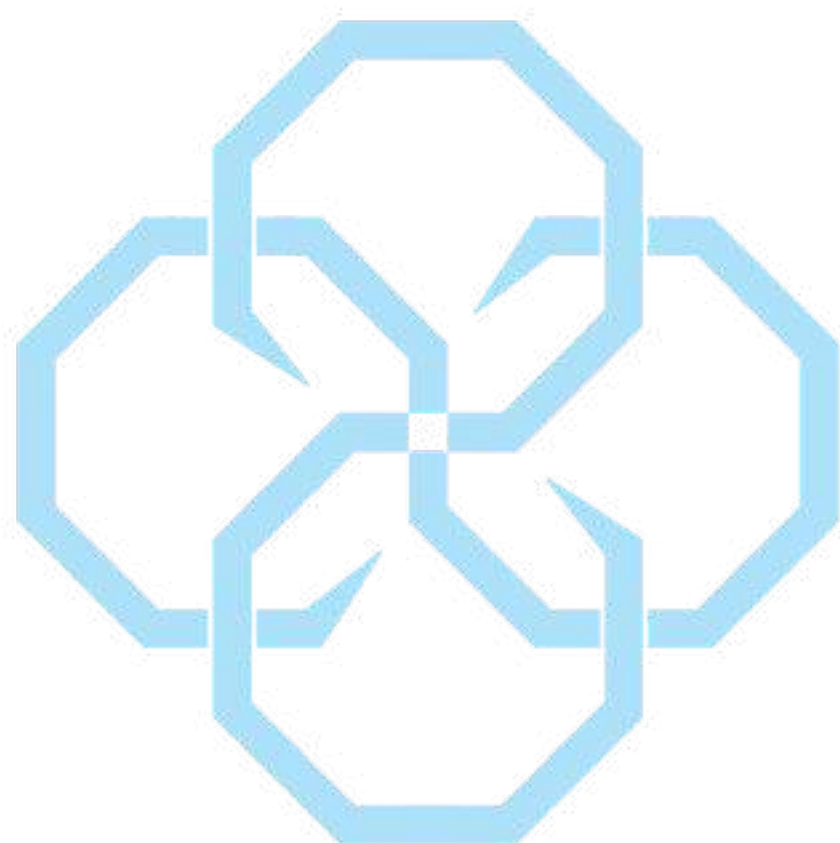
Venue: Lecture Hall, CM Building



SAU
SOUTH ASIAN
UNIVERSITY

SAU CONNECT

Monthly Newsletter
July 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

Dear Members of the South Asian University Community, July has been a month of significant milestones for South Asian University, reflecting our unwavering commitment to academic excellence, regional cooperation, and global engagement.

It was an honour to welcome H.E. Ambassador Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of SAARC, whose visit reaffirmed our shared vision of strengthening regional collaboration through higher education. During the month, I also had the opportunity to contribute to the national discourse on education reforms, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based policymaking guided by academic expertise.

Our international outreach gained further momentum through productive engagements with leading institutions across Europe, Asia, and North America, as well as discussions with UNITAR to foster collaboration in capacity building, digital learning, and sustainable development. These partnerships will create valuable opportunities for research, innovation, and academic exchange.

A proud moment for the University was extending a global invitation to the research community for IEEE WCCI 2028, which South Asian University will host in New Delhi—the first time this prestigious event will be held in India.

Together, we continue to strengthen SAU's role as a global centre of knowledge, innovation, and regional cooperation.



From the Editorial Team

The past month has been one of remarkable progress and achievement at South Asian University, reflecting our continued commitment to academic excellence, research, innovation, and regional engagement. From strengthening institutional partnerships to celebrating the accomplishments of our faculty and students, this issue captures the dynamic spirit that defines the SAU community.

A defining highlight of July was the visit of H.E. Ambassador Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of SAARC, which reaffirmed SAU's unique regional mandate and its role in fostering dialogue and collaboration across South Asia. The University also expanded its global academic engagement through strategic interactions with leading international institutions and organisations, opening new avenues for research, innovation, and academic exchange.

This issue also highlights the successful completion of the ICSSR-sponsored Capacity Building Programme on research competencies, along with international conferences, specialised workshops, and faculty development initiatives that strengthened our research ecosystem. We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students, who secured placements and internships with leading organisations, as well as the accomplishments of our faculty through impactful research publications, awards, and international recognitions. Another significant milestone was the Bar Council of India's approval for SAU's integrated law programmes.

Beyond academics, the University remained vibrant through visits of prominent personalities, outreach activities, and meaningful collaborations with industry and global partners. We hope this edition offers an engaging reflection of the milestones that continue to strengthen South Asian University's position as a centre of excellence serving South Asia and the world.

Highlight of the month



South Asian University Hosts International Symposium on 6G and Beyond Ecosystem

South Asian University, in collaboration with the ITU-APT Foundation of India, successfully organized the International Symposium on 6G and Beyond Ecosystem on 3 July 2026, reaffirming its commitment to advancing research and fostering dialogue on next-generation communication technologies. The symposium brought together eminent academicians, industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, and technology experts to deliberate on the future of 6G communications and India's role in shaping the global digital landscape.

The event was graced by Prof. K.K. Aggarwal, Hon'ble President of South Asian University, and Prof. Ramjee Prasad, Founding President of CTIF Global Capsule (CGC), who was felicitated during his 80th birthday week for his outstanding contributions to the field of wireless communications. The symposium was chaired by Prof. S. N. Gupta, with Prof. S. P. Aggrawal serving as the Organizing Coordinator.

The symposium featured distinguished speakers, including Mr. Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Director General of the Bharat 6G Alliance; Dr. Devesh Tyagi, CEO of the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI); Mr. Syed Tausif Abbas, Head, TEC & CMD, TCIL; Mr. Bharat Bhatia, President of the ITU-APT Foundation of India; and Prof. Sibaram Khara, Vice Chancellor of Sharda University, along with several other renowned experts from academia, industry, and government.

A series of insightful keynote addresses, technical sessions, and panel discussions explored India's vision for global leadership in 6G, emerging technological trends, standardization, spectrum management, research and innovation, and opportunities for academia-industry collaboration. The deliberations underscored the importance of international partnerships, interdisciplinary research, and policy support in building a resilient and future-ready 6G ecosystem.

Research Spotlight

Motivating Virtual Teams: What Drives Performance in the Digital Workplace?

By Dr. Vibhash Kumar (Faculty of Management, South Asian University) and co-authors, published in Management Review Quarterly (Springer Nature), a leading Scopus Q1 journal.

As organisations increasingly rely on remote and hybrid work models, understanding what motivates virtual teams has become critical to organisational success. While virtual collaboration offers flexibility and access to global talent, it also presents challenges in communication, coordination, and team engagement. This study investigates how team motivation influences the performance of virtual teams, providing evidence-based insights for researchers, managers, and organisations navigating the evolving world of work.



Key Findings

1. Team Motivation Improves Performance

Virtual teams with higher levels of collective motivation perform better, but the size of that advantage depends on the setting. The relationship is dependable in direction and modest in strength, and it varies widely from one kind of team to another.

2. Evidence from Nearly 16,700 Virtual Teams

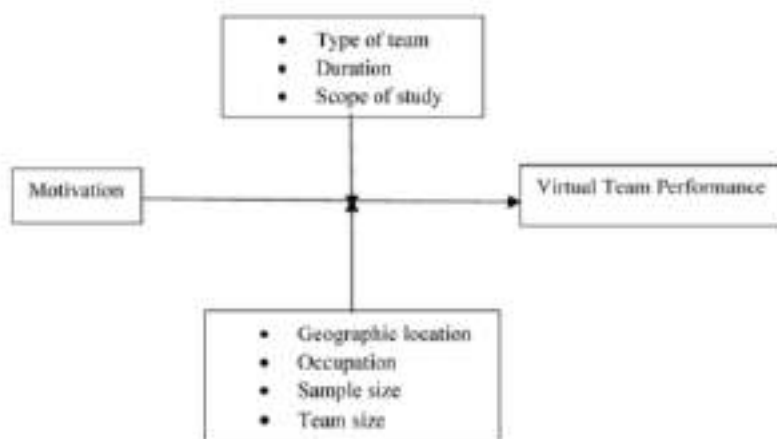
The study synthesises findings from 19 studies involving almost 16,700 virtual teams, providing one of the most comprehensive assessments of the motivation-performance relationship in virtual work environments.

3. Practical Implications for Organisations

The findings offer valuable guidance for managers on fostering motivation, improving collaboration, and enhancing productivity in remote and hybrid teams.

4. Motivation Pays Off Under the Right Conditions

Motivation contributes about twice as much to performance where teams are accountable for real outcomes, stay together long enough to build trust, and do structured, interdependent work. Very large teams saw no clear benefit, suggesting coordination becomes the binding constraint. This pattern is the study's central contribution.



Conceptual framework Schamp et al (2023). Source: Author created

Research Overview



The research paper, "***Team Motivation and Virtual Team Performance: A Multilevel Meta-Analytic Assessment***," published in **Management Review Quarterly (Springer Nature)**, synthesises evidence from **19 independent studies** comprising **30 effect sizes** and nearly **16,700 virtual teams**. Using a rigorous three-level random-effects meta-analysis, the study examines the relationship between team motivation and virtual team performance across diverse organisational settings.

The findings demonstrate that motivated virtual teams perform better, though motivation works as an enabling condition rather than a driver on its own. Its influence is smaller than that of trust, cohesion or communication, and it depends on how a team is designed. The study also explores contextual factors that influence this relationship, providing valuable guidance for designing and managing high-performing virtual teams in increasingly digital workplaces.

By consolidating findings from multiple empirical studies, the research offers robust evidence that can inform organisational policies, leadership practices, and future research on distributed work and digital collaboration.

Conclusion

This research makes a significant contribution to the growing body of knowledge on virtual teamwork by providing robust evidence on the critical role of team motivation in enhancing performance. As organisations increasingly embrace remote and hybrid work models, the study offers valuable insights for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers seeking to build more effective, collaborative, and resilient virtual teams.



This research, titled "Team Motivation and Virtual Team Performance: A Multilevel Meta-Analytic Assessment," was conducted by Dr. Vibhash Kumar (Faculty of Management, South Asian University) and his co-authors. The study was published in Management Review Quarterly (Springer Nature), a Scopus Q1 Journal with an Impact Factor of 9.0 and a CiteScore of 16.6. . DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11301-026-00605-0>.

Research and Publications

SAU Research Published in Prestigious Q1 International Journal

A research paper by Mr. Apoorv Katoch, a PhD scholar in Sociology at South Asian University (SAU), has been published in *Humour: International Journal of Humour Studies*, an internationally acclaimed Q1 journal. The paper was co-authored with and supervised by Prof. Dev Nath Pathak from the Faculty of Social Sciences, SAU.

The study offers a pioneering analysis of the Indian Parliament as a democratic institution, examining the critical role of humour and humorous affects in shaping parliamentary democracy. By exploring political humour within institutional settings, the research opens new avenues for scholarly inquiry and contributes significantly to the growing discourse on democracy, political communication, and parliamentary studies. The publication highlights SAU's commitment to producing impactful, globally recognized research in the social sciences.



SAU Scholar Presents Research at NXT Conclave

Mr. Maiwand Safi, a final-year PhD Scholar at South Asian University, presented his research paper, "Reimagining the Indian Ocean: Why India's Leadership Must Extend Beyond the Coastline," as a featured talk at the prestigious NXT Conclave. The research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi, Former Vice President (Outreach), South Asian University.

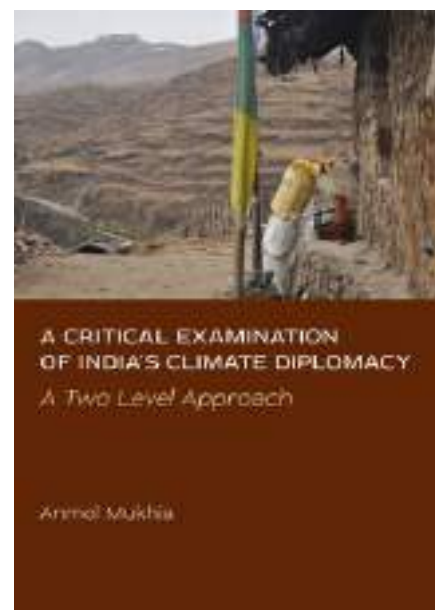
The paper examines the Indian Ocean as more than a maritime domain, presenting it as a strategic platform for diplomacy, security, connectivity, and global leadership. It highlights India's evolving role in shaping the region's future and offers fresh perspectives on regional cooperation and geopolitical engagement.



SAU Faculty Publishes Book on India's Climate Diplomacy

Dr. Anmol Mukhia of the Department of International Relations has published a new book titled *A Critical Examination of India's Climate Diplomacy: A Two Level Approach*, published by Ethics International Press, UK. The publication has also been catalogued by the British Library, reflecting its international academic recognition.

The monograph offers a comprehensive analysis of India's climate diplomacy by examining how domestic political and economic dynamics shape the country's engagement in international climate negotiations. Contributing to the fields of environmental politics, foreign policy analysis, and South Asian studies, the book provides valuable insights for academics, policymakers, researchers, and students interested in climate governance and international relations.



Research Spotlight: Strengthening India's Act East Policy

A recent commentary by Dr. Anmol Mukhia, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, South Asian University, examines how India's Act East Policy can further strengthen connectivity between the Northeast and Southeast Asia. The publication explores the evolving priorities of the policy and highlights the strategic and developmental significance of India's Northeast in advancing regional cooperation and cross-border connectivity. The commentary contributes to ongoing academic discourse on infrastructure development, border governance, regional integration, and India's engagement with Southeast Asia, offering valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges of enhancing connectivity in the region.



SAU Research Scholar Presents at International Spring School

Mr. Apoorv Katoch, a PhD research scholar in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, represented South Asian University at the international Spring School on "Science, Religion and Health," held from 27–29 May 2026. The programme was organized by the International Research Network on Science, Religion & Health in collaboration with the ISOR Research Group at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).

Working under the supervision of Dr. Dev Nath Pathak, Mr. Katoch presented his paper, "Bio-Spiritual Subjectivity: Reproductive Health and Charismatic Christianity among Women in Delhi." Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork, the study explores how Christian women negotiate reproductive health challenges by balancing biomedical practices with spiritual beliefs.



SAU Faculty Publishes on India's Energy Transition in South Asia

Dr. Anmol Mukhia of the Department of International Relations has published a paper titled "India's Energy Transition Goals in South Asia" in the India Foundation Journal.

The paper examines India's evolving energy transition agenda within the South Asian region, highlighting the opportunities and challenges of advancing clean energy, regional cooperation, and sustainable development. It provides insights into the strategic importance of energy diplomacy and the role of collaborative initiatives in strengthening regional energy security and accelerating the transition towards a low-carbon future.



Achievements

Dr. Stellina Jolly Awarded Prestigious Max Planck Research Scholarship

Dr. Stellina Jolly, Senior Associate Professor, Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, has been awarded a prestigious Research Scholarship by the Max Planck Society to undertake research at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg, one of the world's foremost research institutions in the fields of comparative, private, and international private law. The research fellowship, held from 3 June to 31 July 2026, focuses on the intersection of climate change and private international law, an emerging area of global legal scholarship. The award recognizes Dr. Jolly's academic excellence and provides an opportunity to contribute to cutting-edge international research.



Prof. R. K. Saxena Award Presented to Outstanding Student

The Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology (FLSB) at South Asian University hosted the prestigious Prof. R. K. Saxena Award Ceremony, celebrating academic excellence and recognizing outstanding student achievement.

This year's Prof. R. K. Saxena Award was presented to Ms. Neha in recognition of her exceptional academic performance, dedication, and commitment to excellence. The ceremony brought together faculty members, students, and distinguished guests to honour her accomplishment.

The event concluded with an inspiring keynote address by Prof. Rajiv K. Saxena, who shared his insights on the ultimate goals of human life, encouraging students to pursue scientific excellence with purpose and integrity.

Academic Activities

The Department of Mathematics, South Asian University, hosted a distinguished lecture by Prof. Anil Kumar from the Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) Pilani – K. K. Birla Goa Campus on 28 July 2026.

In his lecture, "Optimal Control of Dynamical Systems: A Variational Perspective," Prof. Kumar explored the concept of controllability and discussed how dynamical systems can be steered from one state to another through admissible control inputs. He also explained the principles of optimal control, highlighting mathematical approaches for determining control functions that optimize performance while satisfying system dynamics and associated constraints.



Department of Mathematics Hosts Distinguished Lecture on Optimal Control Theory



Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology Welcomes New MSc and PhD Cohorts

The Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology (FLSB) officially welcomed its incoming Master of Science and PhD cohorts with a comprehensive orientation program organized on July 29, 2026, to launch their academic journey. The day began with guided tours of the Life Sciences building, advanced FLSB research laboratories, and modern classrooms, led by university staff and student coordinators. During the formal session, Program Coordinator Dr AKR Gobinath delivered introductory remarks, followed by Dean Prof. Rinkoo D. Gupta, who provided a strategic overview of the MSc/PhD curriculum, research facilities, and essential university committees. The event concluded with interactive faculty and student introductions and a networking mixer over tea, establishing a strong foundation for future academic excellence and scientific innovation.

Management students had the opportunity to attend the Navabharat Viksit Bharat Leadership Conclave 2026, an inspiring platform that brought together eminent policymakers, industry leaders, innovators, and visionaries to deliberate on India's journey towards Viksit Bharat @2047.

The event provided students with valuable insights into leadership, governance, innovation, infrastructure, and nation-building while offering a unique opportunity to interact with distinguished leaders from government and industry.

Mr Shubham Mahajan, Assistant Director, Corporate Engagement, Training & Placement (CETP), along with SAU MBA interns currently interning at the Ministry of Communications, coordinated the event, enabling our students to gain first-hand exposure to a prestigious national forum.



Learning beyond the classroom

Presidential Connect



Ambassador Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of SAARC visited SAU

South Asian University welcomed Ambassador Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of SAARC, to its campus for an engaging interaction with the university community.

The visit was further enriched by the presence of Mr. Bhavesh R. Trivedi, Director, Economic, Trade & Finance (ETF), SAARC Secretariat, and LT. COL. Vanga Bhargavi, OSD (SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, India. Their presence and participation added immense value to the discussions on regional cooperation, economic integration, and the role of higher education in advancing the shared aspirations of South Asia.

The distinguished delegation was warmly welcomed by the Hon'ble President of South Asian University, Prof. K.K. Aggarwal, in the presence of Prof. Pranab Muhuri, Vice President (Administration); Prof. Kapil Sharma, Vice President (Academic); Prof. Ritu Gaur, Vice President (Strategy and Innovation); Prof. Deepa Sinha, Proctor, SAU; Prof. Navnit Jha, Dean of Students; Dr. Ravindra Kumar Soni, Registrar; along with the deans, faculty members, staff, and students of the University. The interaction reaffirmed SAU's commitment to fostering academic excellence, regional dialogue, and collaborative research among the SAARC Member States.

South Asian University expresses its sincere gratitude to the distinguished guests for their inspiring visit and looks forward to strengthening partnerships that advance peace, prosperity, and knowledge-driven regional development across South Asia.



SAU President Shares Views on Education Reforms in ANI Interview

Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Hon'ble President of South Asian University, shared his perspectives on education reforms, examination systems, and the role of academic expertise in public policy during an interview with ANI.

Commenting on the national discourse surrounding examination reforms, Prof. Aggarwal emphasized that policy decisions should be informed by academic excellence, research expertise, and institutional experience. He also defended the inclusion of leading academicians in national policy discussions, underscoring the importance of respecting scholarly contributions and ensuring that educational reforms are guided by subject experts rather than political considerations.

The interaction highlighted South Asian University's commitment to promoting informed public dialogue on higher education and contributing to discussions on issues of national importance through academic leadership.



Meeting with Prof. Gabriella Pasi, Vice Rector for International Relations at the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

Continuing South Asian University's efforts to expand its global academic network, Hon'ble President Prof. K.K. Aggarwal met with Prof. Gabriella Pasi, Vice Rector for International Relations at the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, to discuss opportunities for deeper international engagement and long-term institutional collaboration.

The meeting underscored a shared vision of advancing higher education through global partnerships and fostering stronger academic ties between Europe and South Asia. Discussions covered opportunities for joint research, faculty and student mobility, international academic programmes, interdisciplinary collaboration, and knowledge exchange, with the aim of creating lasting academic value for both institutions.

The leaders also explored avenues for future collaboration between South Asian University and the University of Milano-Bicocca, reaffirming the importance of international partnerships in driving innovation, research excellence, and cross-cultural learning.



Meeting with Prof. Jon Garibaldi, Provost of the The University of Nottingham Ningbo China

In a significant step towards expanding international academic engagement, Hon'ble President of South Asian University, Prof. K.K. Aggarwal, held discussions with Prof. Jon Garibaldi, Provost of the The University of Nottingham Ningbo China and member of the University of Nottingham Executive Board, to explore opportunities for deeper institutional, academic, and research collaboration.

The discussions highlighted the important role of higher education in strengthening cooperation across the SAARC nations and the wider Asian region through knowledge sharing, innovation, and academic excellence.

The two leaders exchanged views on opportunities for collaborative research, faculty and student mobility, interdisciplinary initiatives, and capacity-building programmes. They also explored the potential for future collaboration between South Asian University and the University of Nottingham, including its campuses in the United Kingdom and Ningbo, China.



Meeting with Joel Towers, President of The New School, USA

Hon'ble SAU President, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, met with Joel Towers, President of The New School, USA, to discuss opportunities for collaboration between Parsons School of Design and SAU's Faculty of Arts and Design.

Parsons School of Design, one of the world's leading design institutions with approximately 6,000 students and campuses in New York, London and Paris, respectively, expressed interest in exploring a strategic partnership with SAU. President Joel Towers was receptive to the proposals, and a delegation from The New School is expected to visit SAU to further explore areas of mutual collaboration.

The discussions covered several potential initiatives, including the establishment of a Parsons–SAU Design Center; executive education and professional certificate programmes; entrepreneurship and innovation support for graduates; a South Asia hub for The New School and Parsons alumni; summer institutes in design, creativity and innovation; faculty exchanges and visiting practitioners; joint research in design, technology, sustainability, urban development and the creative economy; and externally supported research collaborations with government, philanthropic and industry partners.



Meeting with Mr. Khalid Zine, Senior Programme Specialist, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) at the United Nations Secretariat

Hon'ble SAU President, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, met Mr. Khalid Zine, Senior Programme Specialist, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) at the United Nations Secretariat to explore strategic collaboration in capacity building.

The discussions focused on expanding inclusive and accessible digital learning, advancing climate action and the green transition, promoting peaceful, just and resilient societies, strengthening skills for sustainable economic transformation, and leveraging innovation, partnerships, and technology-enabled learning.

UNITAR will initiate the process for a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SAU, marking a significant step towards enhancing the University's global role and impact.



Prof. K.K. Aggarwal Extends Global Invitation to IEEE WCCI 2028

At the IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence (WCCI 2026) in Maastricht, The Netherlands, our Hon'ble SAU President, Prof. K.K. Aggarwal, officially invited the global IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (IEEE CIS) community to IEEE WCCI 2028 in New Delhi, India, to be hosted by South Asian University.

This will mark a significant milestone: for the first time in its more than 30-year history, the IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence will be hosted in India.

Scheduled for 23–28 July 2028, WCCI 2028 will bring the global computational intelligence community to New Delhi, with the conference hosted across the South Asian University campus and the state-of-the-art Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Dwarka.

In his address, Prof. Aggarwal warmly welcomed researchers, academicians, industry leaders, students, and innovators from around the world to India. He highlighted the country's growing leadership in science, technology, and innovation, while reaffirming South Asian University's commitment to world-class research, international collaboration, and academic excellence.



Meeting with Prof. Pradeep K. Khosla, Chancellor of the University of California San Diego

Hon'ble President of South Asian University, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, met with Prof. Pradeep K. Khosla, Chancellor of the University of California San Diego, to explore avenues for academic and research collaboration.

During the meeting, Prof. Aggarwal highlighted SAU's unique regional mandate and its growing academic and research ecosystem. Prof. Khosla appreciated SAU's role in fostering regional cooperation through higher education and expressed keen interest in its future initiatives.

The discussions, which also included Dr. Prabal Gupta, Executive Director, US-India Initiatives, UC San Diego, and Prof. Rajesh Gupta, Dean at UC San Diego, focused on exploring potential collaborations in key areas such as bioengineering and artificial intelligence. The conversation also explored opportunities for engagement with UC San Diego's Global Centre for 21st Century India, paving the way for meaningful academic exchange and joint initiatives.



Meeting with Prof. Eugene Olevsky, Dean and Distinguished Professor, SDSU College of Engineering, San Diego State University (SDSU)

Hon'ble President of South Asian University, Prof. K.K. Aggarwal met with Prof. Eugene Olevsky, Dean and Distinguished Professor, SDSU College of Engineering, San Diego State University (SDSU), to discuss opportunities for academic and research collaboration.

Prof. Olevsky expressed SDSU College of Engineering's commitment to expanding its international partnerships and highlighted the strong potential for mutually beneficial collaboration with South Asian University in areas such as joint research, student and faculty exchanges, and other academic initiatives.

The meeting marks a promising step toward fostering meaningful international engagement and exploring new avenues of cooperation between the two institutions.

Outreach Activities



Faculty Participation at World Youth Day Forum, Goa

Prof. Pooran Pandey, Director of the Climate Centre, South Asian University, participated in the World Youth Day Forum in Goa at the invitation of the Government of Goa. During the plenary session on "Trends in ITS, Skilling and Capacity Building for Road Safety," he highlighted the importance of strengthening skills in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) to enhance road safety, improve India's global competitiveness, and support sustainable transport solutions.

The forum also witnessed the signing of an MoU between South Asian University and the ITS India Forum on ITS skilling in the presence of Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa. Senior officials of the Government of Goa expressed interest in collaborating with SAU on training and research initiatives for students of ITIs and engineering colleges, further strengthening the University's outreach and industry engagement.



Prof. S. P. Aggarwal on Doordarshan's DD Morning Show

Prof. S. P. Aggarwal, OSD to the President, South Asian University, was invited to Doordarshan National's DD Morning Show for a discussion on "Future of Jobs in India." The conversation explored Artificial Intelligence, emerging careers, evolving market demands, and the opportunities being created by a rapidly transforming economy. Prof. Aggarwal highlighted South Asian University's emphasis on practical skills, interdisciplinary education, research, and industry-oriented learning to prepare students for high-growth sectors and the changing world of work.



PhD scholar met with Hon'ble LG of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha

Abhinav Kumar, a PhD scholar in the Department of Sociology under the supervision of Dr Dev Nath Pathak, had the privilege of meeting the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha. The interaction with the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor was part of the "Bharat Darshan" component of the Foundation Course for Indian Information Service (JGB) officers under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

Mr Kumar joined the service in January and is currently undergoing the Foundation Course at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, (IIMC), New Delhi.



THE INDIA-EU FTA AND EU-MERCOSUR AGREEMENT Roundtable

Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi Speaks at Policy Roundtable on India-EU FTA

Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi, Associate Dean, Faculty of International Relations, South Asian University, participated in a roundtable discussion on the theme "Unpacking the India-EU Free Trade Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Agreement" on 10 July 2026 in New Delhi. The roundtable was organised by the Chintan Research Foundation and brought together scholars, policy experts, and practitioners to deliberate on the economic, strategic, and geopolitical implications of these landmark trade agreements. Dr. Tripathi shared his perspectives on the evolving geoeconomic landscape, the strategic significance of the India-EU FTA, and the broader implications of the EU-Mercosur Agreement for global trade and the Global South.



Dr. Ashish Gupta Speaks at International Conference on Business Innovation

Dr. Ashish Gupta, Senior Associate Professor, Faculty of Management, South Asian University, was invited as a distinguished panellist in the 'Editorial Meet Session' in the 2nd International Conference on 'Business Innovation, Transformation and Sustainability' (BITS) organised by the Global Business School (SGBS)- SGT University, Gurugram. He joined the panel along with Prof. Leo P Dana, Dalhousie University, Canada; Sachin Mangla Kumar, FORE School of Management, New Delhi; Shreya Mishra, Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH); and Dr. Gaurav Joshi, Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management.



Dr. Anmol Mukhia Delivers Talk on Connectivity in South Asia

The Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE), Kathmandu, hosted a discussion on "Connectivity in South Asia" featuring Dr. Anmol Mukhia from the Department of International Relations at South Asian University, New Delhi, on 30 June 2026. The session examined the strategic significance of connectivity in South Asia amid shifting geopolitical and geoeconomic dynamics. Discussions explored how physical, digital, energy, and institutional connectivity are reshaping regional cooperation, trade, and integration.



Dr. Anmol Mukhia Delivers Invited Talk at Tribhuvan University

Dr Anmol Mukhia was invited to deliver a talk titled "Connectivity in SA" at the Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS) at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, on 29 June 2026. The event was facilitated by Dr Mrigendra Bahadur Karki, Executive Director of the Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, along with the ICSSR Nepal Chairs, Prof. Madhuri Sukhija and Prof. Anil Kumar Mohapatra, among others.

3-DAY ONLINE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Advanced Systematic Literature Review (SLR) and Research Synthesis
 09:00 AM - 05:00 PM (IST)

Key Learning Outcomes:

- Explain the Literature Review (SLR) process
- Develop a research topic and conceptual framework
- Formulate research questions and search strategies
- Identify relevant literature sources, screening, eligibility, and inclusion
- Extract data from relevant literature and synthesize findings
- Identify research gaps and quality assessment of studies
- Communicate findings effectively and professionally
- Use advanced tools for systematic review and analysis
- Develop a research proposal based on SLR

Key Faculty Members:
 Faculty Members, SAU and IISD, Government of India

Registration Fee:
 Rs. 1000/- (One Thousand Rupees only)

Registration Link:
<https://www.service.edu/online-fdp>

Dr. Ashish Gupta Conducts FDP for Faculty Members and PhD Scholars

Dr. Ashish Gupta, Senior Associate Professor, Faculty of Management, South Asian University (An International University established by the Government of SAARC Nations and supported by the Ministry of External Affairs, India) was invited as a distinguished resource person to conduct 03-Day Online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on 'Advanced Systematic Literature Review (SLR) and Research Synthesis' for Faculty Members and PhD Scholars, organised by ServiceSetu Academics



South Asian University Hosts 28th BIS Social Responsibility Sectional Committee Meeting

South Asian University hosted the 28th meeting of the Social Responsibility Sectional Committee (MSD10) of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on 29 June 2026. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Pooran Chandra Pandey, Director, Climate Centre, South Asian University, under the aegis of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.

The Committee deliberated on key agenda items related to national standards development, guidance on emerging social responsibility issues, India's participation in international standards forums, and the role of BIS in shaping global standards. The meeting brought together senior experts from government, academia, industry, and BIS, including Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs; Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, Member Secretary, BIS; Dr. Parul Rishi of IIFM Bhopal; and Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, former General Manager, NTPC, along with other committee members. Around 28 members also participated virtually.



SAU Bookshelf

Crude Glycerol – A Sustainable Feedstock for the Production of Biofuels and Biochemicals

This month, SAU Connect highlights **Crude Glycerol – A Sustainable Feedstock for the Production of Biofuels and Biochemicals**, by *Dr. A.K.R. Gobinath, Dr. Kunlin Yang, and Dr. Venkata Giridhar Poosarla*, and published by *Elsevier*. The volume presents a comprehensive overview of crude glycerol as a sustainable and value-added feedstock for the production of biofuels, biochemicals, and other high-value products. Bringing together contributions from leading researchers across the world, it explores innovative technologies, bioconversion pathways, environmental sustainability, and industrial applications, making it an important resource for researchers, industry professionals, and policymakers working towards a circular bioeconomy.

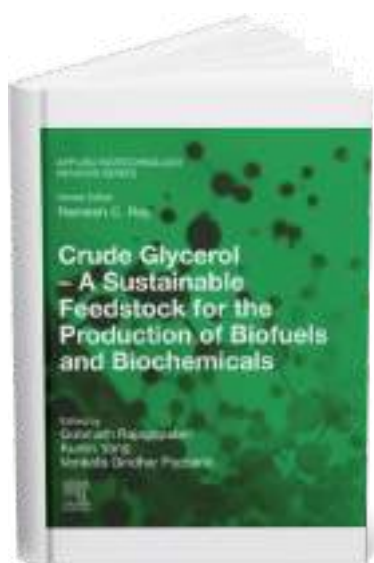
Dr. A.K.R. Gobinath is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology at South Asian University. His research focuses on industrial biotechnology, microbial biotechnology, biofuels, waste valorisation, bioprocess engineering, and sustainable biomanufacturing. He has authored numerous research publications and book chapters in internationally reputed journals and has actively

collaborated with researchers across the globe in advancing sustainable bio-based technologies. As co-editor of *Crude Glycerol – A Sustainable Feedstock for the Production of Biofuels and Biochemicals*, he brings together leading international expertise on transforming industrial waste into valuable bio-based products, contributing to the advancement of the circular bioeconomy.

The rapid growth of the biodiesel industry has resulted in a significant increase in the production of crude glycerol, creating both environmental challenges and opportunities for sustainable resource utilization. *Crude Glycerol – A Sustainable Feedstock for the Production of Biofuels and Biochemicals* examines how this abundant by-product can be transformed into a valuable raw material for producing renewable fuels, chemicals, biomaterials, and other bio-based products.

The book provides an interdisciplinary perspective on the latest advances in biological, chemical, and catalytic conversion technologies, highlighting innovative approaches for waste valorisation and sustainable industrial processes. It also discusses techno-economic considerations, environmental impacts, and emerging opportunities for integrating crude glycerol into the circular bioeconomy.

By bridging fundamental research with industrial applications, the volume offers practical insights into developing cleaner technologies and advancing sustainable manufacturing. It serves as a valuable reference for scientists, engineers, graduate students, and professionals working in biotechnology, bioenergy, chemical engineering, and environmental sustainability.



Dr. A.K.R. Gobinath, Associate Professor, Faculty of Life Sciences & Biotechnology, South Asian University

Did You Know?

Celebrating Culture and Traditions Across South Asia

July brings a vibrant mix of cultural, religious, and seasonal celebrations across South Asia. From colourful chariot processions and Buddhist festivals to polo tournaments, harvest traditions, and national commemorations, these events showcase the region's rich cultural diversity and strengthen the shared heritage that unites the SAARC nations.



Afghanistan – Traditional Summer Cultural Festivals are organised celebrating rich heritage through folk music, handicrafts, traditional cuisine.



Maldives – Independence Day (26 July) is celebrated with colourful parades, cultural performances, patriotic events, and community festivities.



Bangladesh – Rath Yatra (16 July 2026), celebrated by the Hindu community, commemorates Lord Jagannath's annual journey.



Nepal – Saune Sankranti (17 July 2026) marks the beginning of the holy month of Shrawan. The festival is celebrated with temple visits and prayers.



Bhutan – Haa Summer Festival showcases Bhutan's unique nomadic traditions through cultural performances, indigenous sports, and local cuisine.



Pakistan – The Shandur Polo Festival is one of Pakistan's most iconic cultural events, featuring thrilling freestyle polo matches between the teams of Chitral and Gilgit.



India – Jagannath Rath Yatra (16 July 2026), one of India's most revered Hindu festivals, is celebrated with grand chariot processions, especially in Puri, Odisha.



Sri Lanka – beginning of the Esala festive season, with celebrations including the Kataragama Festival, Aadi Vel Festival, and Esala Full Moon Poya Day, reflecting the island's rich Buddhist and Hindu traditions.

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

- 🇦🇫 Afghanistan (Dari): وحدت (Wahdat)
- 🇧🇩 Bangladesh (Bengali): ঐক্য (Oikko)
- 🇧🇹 Bhutan (Dzongkha): ཅུངཌལ་ (Chigdril)
- 🇮🇳 India (Hindi): एकता (Ekta)
- 🇲🇻 Maldives (Dhivehi): ޢކުވަރިކަން (Ekuverikan)
- 🇳🇵 Nepal (Nepali): एकता (Ekta)
- 🇵🇰 Pakistan (Urdu): اتحاد (Ittihad)
- 🇱🇰 Sri Lanka (Sinhala): එක්සත්කම (Eksathkama)

Welcome On-board



Dr. Khanindra Ch. Das joined as Assistant Professor (SG); Dr. Ritesh Gupta joined as Associate Professor; Dr. Sachin Gupta, joined as Assistant Professor (SG), and Dr. Satrajit Mandal joined as Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Management



Dr. Ramesh Chandra Gaur joined as Professor of Practice; Dr. Piyashi Dutta joined as Associate Professor; Dr. Shruti Nagpal joined as Assistant Professor (SG) in the Media Studies, Faculty of Arts & Design



Dr. Tamalika Chaira joined as Associate Professor and Dr. Neha Agrawal joined as Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & Technology



Dr. Alok Agarwal joined as Assistant Professor of Practice, Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Technology



Dr. Namrata Jain joined as Assistant Professor, English



Dr. Girija Shankar Papanai joined as Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics

Upcoming Events

August
3
2026

"Reboot: Monsoon Kickoff," a welcome session for Integrated BS-MS third-semester students

August
5
2026

- Inauguration of Central Kitchen
- Interaction with the Homagni and (Dr Julie Jones) from Aberystwyth Business School

August
7
2026

Inauguration of Five-Year Integrated Programmes—B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) and B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) by Hon'ble Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State (IC) for Law & Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India, as the Chief Guest; Hon'ble Mr Justice Rajesh Bindal, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, as the Guest of Honour

August
13
2026

SAU Thought Cafe- Dr. Mohammad Badrul Alam - Dept. of International Relations



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