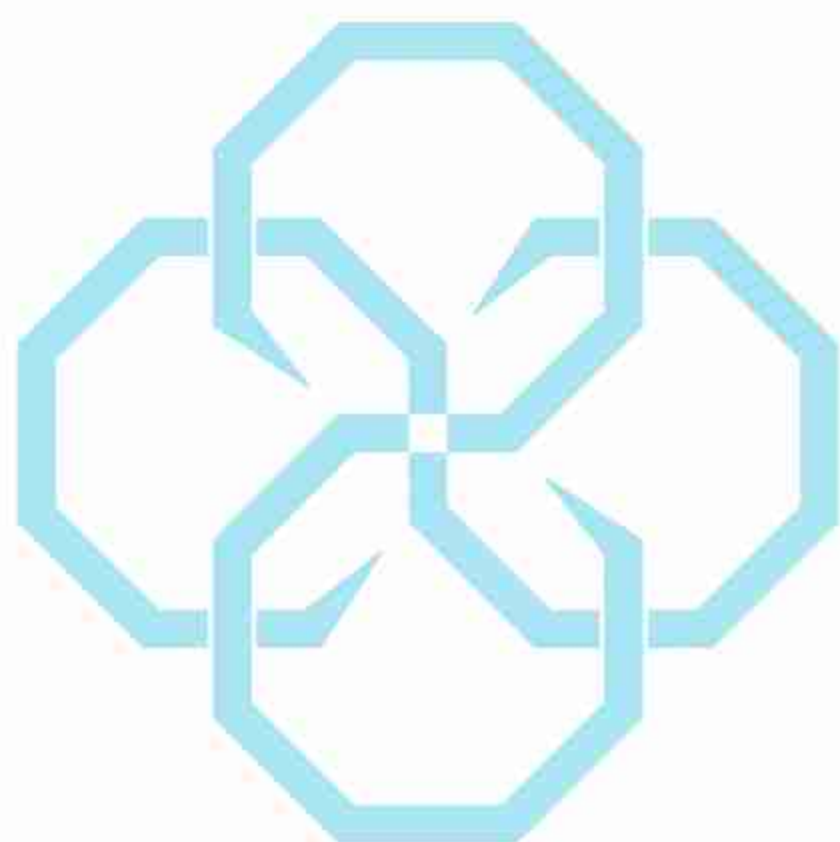




SAU
SOUTH ASIAN
UNIVERSITY

SAU CONNECT

Monthly Newsletter
August 2026



ST 7, 2026 (FRIDAY)

30 AM



VENUE:

Auditorium 1,
Academic Block 6



Excellence in Legal Education



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

South Asian University continues to strengthen its academic mandate and deepen its engagement with institutions and communities across South Asia and beyond. The inauguration of the Five-Year Integrated Law Programmes—B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) and B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) marks an important milestone in the University's academic development, expanding its commitment to interdisciplinary and practice-oriented professional education. These programmes will provide students with a strong foundation in law while enabling them to engage with the broader social, economic and policy dimensions of the legal profession.

SAU has continued to advance regional and international academic engagement. The visit of Ambassador Maj. Gen. Vetsop Namgyel of the Royal Bhutanese Embassy, New Delhi, accompanied by Shri Dorji Khandu, Counsellor (Political), provided an opportunity to strengthen academic engagement and deepen understanding of Bhutan-India relations. Engagements with the University of Vaasa, Finland, and institutions in Nepal have further opened avenues for research collaboration, knowledge exchange, innovation and capacity building.

The University remains equally committed to strengthening the campus experience. The inauguration of the Central Kitchen is an important step towards ensuring improved quality, hygiene and efficiency in dining services for our student community.



From the Editorial Team

This edition of SAU Connect brings together a range of developments that reflect South Asian University's continuing academic growth, regional engagement and institutional development. The period has been marked by significant milestones in professional education, international and regional collaborations, research, alumni achievements and student-focused initiatives. A major academic milestone has been the inauguration of the Five-Year Integrated Law Programmes—B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) and B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), expanding SAU's academic mandate into professional legal education with an emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and practical training.

SAU's regional and international engagement has also continued to grow. The visit of Ambassador Maj. Gen. Vetsop Namgyel of the Royal Bhutanese Embassy, New Delhi, accompanied by Shri Dorji Khandu, Counsellor (Political), provided an opportunity for academic engagement and dialogue on Bhutan-India relations. Engagement with the University of Vaasa, Finland, has opened avenues for research, innovation, mobility and knowledge exchange. Similarly, the collaboration with the Banking Finance and Insurance Institute of Nepal (BFIN) is expanding possibilities for joint research, training, executive development and academic exchange across South Asia.

The issue also highlights the achievements of the SAU community. Dr. Diya Mehra, Senior Assistant Professor in Sociology, has received a Regional Studies Association (UK) research grant for her research on urbanisation in the Western Himalayas. Kartik, an alumnus of the Faculty of Economics, has been appointed Research Specialist at Gartner, reflecting the professional relevance of the academic and research training at SAU.

Alongside these academic and institutional developments, SAU continues to strengthen the student experience. The inauguration of the Central Kitchen marks an important step towards enhancing the quality, hygiene and efficiency of dining services on campus.

Together, these developments reflect SAU's continuing endeavour to build meaningful partnerships, promote impactful scholarship, strengthen regional connections and create an environment in which students and faculty can learn, research and contribute across borders.

Highlight of the month



The Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, marked a significant milestone with the **inauguration of its Five-Year Integrated Law Programmes—B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) and B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.)**—on 7 August 2026. The ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law & Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India, as **Chief Guest**; **Hon'ble Mr Justice Rajesh Bindal, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, as Guest of Honour**; and **Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President, South Asian University**.

The ceremony commenced with Saraswati Vandana, the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, and the release of the programme brochure. **Prof. Ritu Gupta, Dean, Faculty of Legal Studies**, welcomed the gathering and introduced the newly launched programmes and the inaugural batch of students. Prof. Kapil Sharma, Vice President (Academic), shared the University's academic vision and encouraged students to engage with authentic sources of knowledge.

In his presidential address, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal highlighted the vision behind the integrated law programmes and SAU's distinctive SAARC character. He also announced the **appointment of Justice Rajesh Bindal as Honorary Visiting Professor**, reinforcing the University's commitment to practice-oriented legal education. Justice Bindal spoke about the evolving legal profession and the growing role of technology in the justice system through initiatives such as NJDG and e-Courts. In his inaugural address, Hon'ble Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal congratulated the University and students, while highlighting the historical significance of 7 August and its association with the Swadeshi Movement of 1905.

The launch represents a significant expansion of SAU's academic mandate into professional legal education, bringing together interdisciplinary learning, practical legal training, and the University's distinctive regional and international character. The integrated programmes are envisaged to equip students not only with a strong grounding in law, but also with an understanding of the wider social, economic and policy contexts shaping the legal profession.

Research Spotlight

Sustainability and Emission Tracking in Indian Companies

By Shyamli Singh (South Asian University) and Himanshi Negi (Indian Institute of Public Administration), published in the Indian Journal of Public Administration, Vol. 72, Issue 1, March 2026.

India's transition towards more systematic corporate sustainability reporting has moved from the earlier Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR) framework to the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework. This study examines how Indian companies report and track greenhouse gas emissions under this evolving framework, with particular attention to Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions, energy intensity, and emission intensity across major industrial sectors.

Using data compiled from corporate sustainability reports, regulatory filings, public databases and industry sources, the study analyses companies across 19 industry categories. The researchers examine differences in emissions and energy intensity across sectors and companies, using descriptive statistical analysis and data visualisation to identify patterns in corporate environmental performance.



Key Findings

1. Emissions Vary Significantly Across Industries

The study finds substantial differences in emission profiles across Indian industries. The power sector accounts for 87.53% of the total Scope 1 emissions in the industry-level analysis, highlighting the sector's central role in India's direct industrial emissions. Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions, however, are distributed more widely across sectors.

2. Scope 1, 2 and 3 Reveal Different Emission Patterns

The analysis shows that different emission scopes capture distinct dimensions of corporate environmental impact. Electrical equipment accounts for 51.89% of Scope 3 emissions, while the power sector contributes 19.24%. For Scope 2 emissions, diversified FMCG, power, automobiles and auto components emerge as significant contributors. This demonstrates why corporate emission assessment cannot rely only on direct emissions.

3. Significant Differences Among Companies

Company-level analysis reveals considerable variation even within the same industry. In the cement sector, Sanghi Industries records the highest average emission intensity, while Bigbloc Construction records the lowest. Ambuja Cements shows the highest energy intensity. In metals and mining, Jindal Steel & Power and Vedanta emerge among the major contributors across emission categories, while Jindal Steel & Power records the highest emission intensity.

4. Energy and Emission Intensity Remain Important Indicators

Across the 19 industry categories examined, the study reports average Scope 1 emissions of 1.47 million tCO₂e, Scope 2 emissions of 57.29 thousand tCO₂e, and Scope 3 emissions of 444.95 thousand tCO₂e. The average emission intensity is 95.65 tCO₂e per crore, while average energy intensity is 318.40 million joules per INR.

5. Reporting Must Move Beyond Compliance

The findings indicate that the expansion of BRSR reporting is an important step, but disclosure alone does not ensure improved environmental performance. Differences in reporting practices, particularly for Scope 3 emissions, can affect the comparability and completeness of corporate data. The study therefore emphasises the need for more consistent, credible and verifiable reporting.

Research and Publications

SAU Research Examines Baba Nagarjun's Life Through the Lens of Ghumakkari

A research paper by Dr. Dev Nath Pathak, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, has been published in *Asian Ethnology*, a reputed peer-reviewed international journal of anthropology. Titled "A Ghumakkar of Modern Mithila: An Interpretative Reading of Baba Nagarjun's Personhood," the paper appears in the special issue *Critical Contours of Mithila Studies*.

The study offers an interdisciplinary reading of Baba Nagarjun's life, writings and intellectual journey, examining the idea of ghummakari and his movement across Buddhism, Marxism and beyond. It also explores his multilingual literary contribution and places him within wider South Asian intellectual traditions, highlighting SAU's contribution to interdisciplinary scholarship.



Volume 85, Issue 1, 2026
Published by the Anthropological Society of India

SAU Researchers Develop Efficient Route for Biohydrogen Production

Dr. A.K.R. Gobinath and research scholars from the Industrial Biotechnology Laboratory, Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, South Asian University, have published a research paper in *Waste and Biomass Valorization* by Springer Nature. The study demonstrates an efficient approach for converting oat, rice and wheat bran into biohydrogen, a clean and renewable energy carrier.

Using pretreatment-based fermentation and consolidated bioprocessing with *Clostridium beijerinckii* G117, the researchers achieved biohydrogen production of up to 3,280 mL/L from pretreated bran. The findings demonstrate the potential of abundant agricultural residues as sustainable feedstocks for clean energy, contributing to agricultural waste valorisation and the development of renewable energy technologies.



Waste and Biomass Valorization (2024) 15:1000–1010
https://doi.org/10.1007/s10387-023-02279-5
Graphical Abstract



SAU PhD Scholar Presents Research at ISA-SAWP Colombo 2026

Tanya Trehan, first-year PhD candidate in the Department of International Relations, South Asian University, presented two research papers at the ISA-SAWP Colombo 2026 Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Her first paper, "Domestic Vetoes in Federal System: Understanding the Stalemate in Teesta Water-Sharing Negotiations," examines the domestic political factors underlying the prolonged India-Bangladesh deadlock over the Teesta River. Her second paper, "Strategic Use of Rape for Ethnic Genocide: Gendered Dimensions of the Rohingya Genocide," applies feminist perspectives to examine sexual violence as a strategic instrument in the persecution of the Rohingya population. The presentations reflect the breadth of emerging scholarship in International Relations at SAU.



SAU Faculty Member Contributes Chapter on Disability and Desire

Dr. Swati Chandra, Assistant Professor of English, Faculty of Arts and Design, South Asian University, has contributed a chapter titled "Desiring Being Disabled Body: Exploring Disability and Desire in Indra Sinha's *Animal's People*" to the edited volume *Representation of Disability in Literature and Culture*, published by Aakar Books in July 2026.

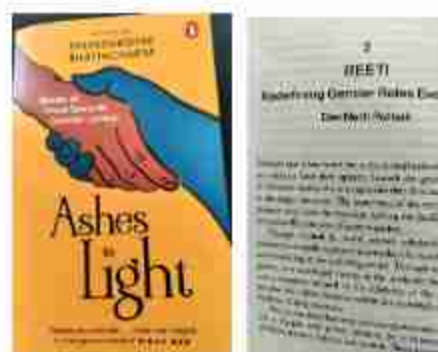
The chapter engages with Disability Studies, examining disability beyond individual or physical limitations and exploring how social and cultural structures shape ideas of normality and difference. Through her reading of *Animal's People*, Dr. Chandra explores the intersections of disability, embodiment and desire, contributing to contemporary interdisciplinary scholarship on disability and representation in literature and culture.



Dr Dev Nath Pathak Contributes to Penguin Anthology on Gender Justice

Dr. Dev Nath Pathak, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, has contributed an essay on the gendered struggles of everyday life to *Stories of Hope Towards Gender Justice*, a new anthology published by Penguin in 2026 and edited by Priyadarshini Bhattacharya.

The anthology brings together distinguished contributors from academia, cinema, the judiciary and civil services, including Ratna Pathak Shah, Rahul Bose, Deepa Mehta, Kiran Rao, Kiran Bedi and Deepti Naval, among others. Dr. Pathak's contribution brings a sociological perspective to questions of gender and justice, examining how inequalities are experienced and negotiated in everyday life. The publication extends SAU scholarship into wider public conversations on gender and society.



SAU PhD Scholar Examines Himalayan Water Politics

Ankit Sahu, PhD Scholar in the Department of International Relations, South Asian University, presented his paper "From Commons to Commodity: Agency and Himalayan Water Politics" at the inaugural ISA-SAWP Conference 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The paper examines the geopolitical dimensions of Himalayan water resources, including China's position on international watercourse frameworks. It argues that water in the Himalayas cannot be separated from broader geopolitical dynamics and highlights how transboundary water resources can be strategically deployed as bargaining instruments in interstate relations. The research further explores the gradual commodification of water, contributing to scholarship on the intersection of environmental resources, geopolitics and interstate relations in South Asia.



SAU PhD Scholar Publishes Research on Iqbal and International Thought

Syed Hammaad Mehraj, PhD Research Scholar in the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, working under the supervision of Dr Shweta Singh, has published a research paper titled "Reimagining the International Through Urdu Poetry of Iqbal: Khilafat, Ummah, and the Revival of Islam" in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*.

The study brings Urdu poetry and South Asian intellectual thought into conversation with International Relations, examining Iqbal's engagement with Khilafat, Ummah and the revival of Islam. By using literary thought to rethink international political ideas, the paper expands conventional approaches to the discipline and demonstrates the relevance of South Asian intellectual traditions to contemporary International Relations scholarship.



Collaborations

SAU and BFIN Strengthen Institutional Collaboration

South Asian University (SAU) and the Banking Finance and Insurance Institute of Nepal (BFIN) are strengthening institutional collaboration through an MoU aimed at promoting cooperation in training, education, research, consultancy, executive development and knowledge exchange.

The proposed collaboration encompasses joint workshops, training programmes, seminars and conferences, collaborative research and policy dialogue, student and faculty interactions, internships, study visits, guest lectures, mentoring, and other academic and professional engagements. The MoU also envisages opportunities for regional executive development programmes, certification courses, online and blended learning, and joint research and knowledge products.

The collaboration was highlighted during the conference 'Future-Ready Financial Systems: Leadership, Sustainability and Transformation Amid Global Uncertainty,' organised by BFIN on 14 August 2026 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The conference brought together prominent speakers and delegates from SAARC Nations to deliberate on leadership, sustainability and transformation in the financial sector.

Prof. K.K. Aggarwal, President, SAU, participated as an Eminent Speaker and shared his Insights during the special session, 'What Makes Leaders Successful? Lessons for a Changing World.'

The programme brought together distinguished dignitaries and participants from the banking and financial sector, including Dr. Binod Atreya, Managing Director, BFIN, among other distinguished participants.

The collaboration marks a significant step towards strengthening academic, professional and institutional linkages between India and Nepal and fostering knowledge-sharing and capacity-building initiatives across South Asia.



Achievements

Dr. Diya Mehra Receives Regional Studies Association Grant

Dr. Diya Mehra, Senior Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, South Asian University, has received a research grant from the Regional Studies Association (UK) to study the regulation of urbanisation in Kullu district in India's Western Himalayas.

The research examines the changing urban landscape of the region amid the rapid growth of tourism, expansion of the built environment, increasing environmental externalities such as solid waste, and the intensifying impacts of climate change. By focusing on the governance and regulation of urbanisation in a rapidly transforming Himalayan setting, the study seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the challenges associated with balancing development, tourism and environmental sustainability. The grant recognises the significance of Dr. Mehra's research and highlights SAU's contribution to scholarship on regional development, urbanisation and the socio-environmental transformations of South Asia.

A graphic titled "SAU SUCCESS STORY" featuring a portrait of Kartik. It highlights his journey from Economics at SAU to becoming a Research Specialist at Gartner. The graphic includes icons for Econometric Analysis, Research, Economic Theory, and Dissertation. A quote from Kartik says: "I owe much of my growth to my training at the Faculty of Economics, SAU." The bottom of the graphic says "Congratulations, Kartik! We are proud to see our alumni making their mark in the world of research and industry." A "PROUD MOMENT" badge is also present.

SAU SUCCESS STORY

From Economics at SAU to
Research Specialist at Gartner

PROUD MOMENT

My Journey

- Econometric Analysis
- Research
- Economic Theory
- Dissertation

My Journey

- Faculty of Economics (South Asian University)
- Senior Researcher at IFC (International Finance Corporation)
- Research Specialist at Gartner

"I owe much of my growth to my training at the Faculty of Economics, SAU."

Congratulations, Kartik!

We are proud to see our alumni making their mark in the world of research and industry

SAU Economics Alumnus Appointed Research Specialist at Gartner

Mr. Kartik, an alumnus of the Faculty of Economics, South Asian University, has been appointed Research Specialist at Gartner, following his earlier role as Senior Researcher at the Institute for Competitiveness (IFC).

Reflecting on his academic journey at SAU, Kartik credited the Faculty's rigorous training in economic theory, Indian and South Asian economies, econometrics, regression analysis and research methodology with providing the foundation for his research career. His dissertation and research training equipped him to undertake structured, evidence-based research, while a paper on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in India, co-authored with his professor and coursemates and published in the Q1 journal Public Administration and Development, further strengthened his research experience. His transition to Gartner reflects the professional relevance of the academic and research skills developed at SAU.

Academic Activities

The Legal Aid Clinic, Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, in collaboration with the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Supreme Court of India, organised a Forty Hours Mediation Certificate Training Programme from 28 August to 1 September 2026. The skill-based programme provided participants with structured and practical exposure to mediation principles, processes and techniques through interactive learning sessions and guidance from experienced mediation professionals. Designed to strengthen practical competencies alongside legal education, the programme familiarised participants with contemporary approaches to dispute resolution and the professional role of mediators. Successful participants received certificates on completion of the training.



Forty Hours Mediation Certificate Training Programme



Two-day session on "VenueSystems Thinking and Sustainability"

The Interdisciplinary Centre of Excellence on Climate Change, Green Transition and Sustainability, South Asian University, organised a two-day session on "VenueSystems Thinking and Sustainability" on 24-25 August 2026, led by Dr. Manish Unhale, Senior Lecturer, Royal Docks School of Business and Law. The sessions introduced participants to systems thinking as a framework for understanding complex sustainability challenges, covering feedback loops, resilience, emergence, self-organisation, stocks and flows, system traps and leverage points. Discussions also explored business systems and stakeholder relationships in creating sustainable value. A notable dimension was the connection between systems thinking and Indian Knowledge Systems, particularly ideas of interconnectedness, balance and collective well-being.

South Asian University hosted the 11th lecture under the SAU Presidential Lecture Series on 25 August 2026, featuring Prof. Kiran Seth, Founder, SPIC MACAY and Padma Shri Awardee, who delivered a lecture on "Indian Knowledge Systems – Their Positive Effects on the Youth, the World Over." Presided over by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President, SAU, the lecture explored how music, dance and yoga can cultivate concentration, patience, creativity and inner discipline among young people. Prof. Seth emphasised consistent practice as a means of training the mind and discussed the stages of learning and the depth of observation embedded in Indian classical music. The lecture was followed by an interactive session with students.



SAU Presidential Lecture Series: Indian Knowledge Systems and Youth

The Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, organised a guest lecture by Dr. Maheshwar Singh, Faculty Member, National Law University, Delhi, on "Relevance of Political Science in the Study of Law." The lecture examined the relationship between political sovereignty and legal authority and explored how law functions as a mechanism for negotiating and distributing power and rights between institutions and citizens. The discussion traced the evolution of legal systems and addressed themes including separation of powers, access to justice and theories of justice. Contemporary questions of gender, caste, social justice, dignity and economic justice in India were also examined, highlighting the importance of political science for understanding law within a multicultural democracy. The session included an interactive Q&A with students.



Guest Lecture on Political Science and the Study of Law



Zscaler Campus Engagement and Mock Interviews

South Asian University hosted a Zscaler Campus Engagement & Mock Interviews session on 19 August 2026, providing more than 100 students with industry exposure to the rapidly evolving field of cybersecurity. Led by Mr. Abhir Naik and Mr. Harish Sati from Zscaler, the session covered the growing importance of Zero Trust, emerging career opportunities, industry expectations and skills required for cybersecurity roles. A key component was the mock interview exercise, which gave students practical exposure to corporate recruitment processes and guidance on communicating effectively, presenting their strengths and identifying areas for improvement. The engagement also highlighted the importance of combining technical expertise, problem-solving, communication and professional confidence in preparing for careers in the cybersecurity sector.

The Centre for Entrepreneurship, Training & Placement (CETP), South Asian University, organised a Pre-Placement Talk by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for University students. The session provided insights into the organisation's hiring process, career opportunities and professional pathways, while helping students understand evolving industry expectations and prepare for prospective recruitment opportunities. The interaction featured Mr. Rajit Sikka, Regional Head – Academic Alliances, India North, TCS, and Dr. Sushil Khosla, Head – Operations Management, TCS. During their visit, the representatives also met Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President, SAU, highlighting the importance of strengthening industry-academia linkages. The engagement provided students with direct interaction with industry professionals and greater awareness of career opportunities in the corporate sector.



TCS Pre-Placement Talk for SAU Students

The SAU Thought Cafe, organised by the Department of International Relations, hosted an inspiring session titled "Beyond the Summit" featuring Mr. Nima Rinji Sherpa, the world's youngest mountaineer to scale all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre peaks. Sharing experiences from his extraordinary mountaineering journey, Mr. Sherpa reflected on the importance of courage, resilience, discipline and perseverance in pursuing seemingly impossible goals. His journey offered students a compelling perspective on overcoming challenges, pushing personal boundaries and maintaining determination in the face of adversity. The session was chaired by Prof. Kapil Kumar Sharma, Vice President (Academic), SAU, and provided an engaging platform for students to reflect on leadership, ambition and the mindset required to pursue extraordinary achievements.



SAU Thought Cafe: "Beyond the Summit"



Introduction to South Asia Online Certificate Programme

The Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), South Asian University, under the guidance of President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, launched its flagship programme, Introduction to South Asia (ITSA), as an online certificate course for learners beyond the University for the first time. The 12-week programme brings together faculty from across SAU's disciplines to explore the history, politics, society, economy and contemporary challenges of South Asia. The initiative received an encouraging response, with 950+ registration requests and 897 successful registrations. Nearly 31% of participants are from SAARC countries other than India, while around 40 participants are from outside the SAARC region. The diverse participation strengthens SAU's role in promoting regional knowledge and academic engagement.

South Asian University, in collaboration with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (UNESCO MGIEP), hosted two-day International Youth Day celebrations on 11-12 August 2026 through the Faculty of Arts, Media and Design. The programme brought together young participants and featured a national youth debate, theatre, student film screenings, an art exhibition, cultural performances and interactive discussions. The activities explored themes including peace, sustainability, technology, social media, climate change, hate speech and societal values. The programme also highlighted youth-led creativity and dialogue as tools for building inclusive and peaceful societies. The collaboration provided a multidisciplinary platform for young people to exchange perspectives, engage with contemporary challenges and express their ideas through diverse creative forms.



SAU and UNESCO MGIEP Celebrate International Youth Day

South Asian University organised a Medical Series for Public Awareness session titled "Back to Life: Everyday Dos and Don'ts for a Healthy Spine" on 18 August 2026. The session featured Dr. Bhavuk Garg, Consultant Speaker, and was curated and chaired by Dr. Ashwani Kumar, under the presidency of Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President, SAU. The programme focused on practical, evidence-based approaches to maintaining spinal health in everyday life. Participants received guidance on healthy practices related to sitting, standing, lifting, computer and mobile-phone use, sleeping, exercise and travel, along with awareness of warning signs requiring medical attention. The initiative extended SAU's academic and public-engagement activities into health awareness, promoting informed and sustainable everyday practices.



Medical Series for Public Awareness: Healthy Spine



Aberystwyth Business School Delegation Visits SAU

The Faculty of Management, South Asian University, hosted a two-member delegation from Aberystwyth Business School, Aberystwyth University, Wales, UK, on 6 August 2026. The delegation comprised Prof. Julie Jones, Director of Knowledge Transfer and Exchange, and Prof. Homagni Choudhury, Head of Aberystwyth Business School. The visit provided an opportunity for academic interaction and exploration of potential areas of institutional collaboration. Discussions focused particularly on opportunities for academic cooperation, joint research and other initiatives of mutual interest. The engagement marked an important step towards developing international academic linkages and creating avenues for knowledge exchange between SAU and Aberystwyth University, further supporting the University's broader commitment to strengthening global academic partnerships.

The Centre for Entrepreneurship, Training & Placement (CETP), South Asian University, organised an orientation session for B.Tech students on its Campus Recruitment Training (CRT) Programme, aimed at preparing students for the upcoming recruitment and placement cycle. The session introduced students to the structure and objectives of the programme, with emphasis on developing skills required for recruitment assessments and interviews. The CRT programme covers technical skill development, coding and problem-solving, aptitude preparation, technical and interview preparation, industry-oriented learning and overall employability. By initiating structured placement preparation in advance, the programme seeks to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry expectations and equip students with the competencies and confidence required to navigate competitive recruitment processes.



CETP Launches Campus Recruitment Training Orientation

The Faculty of Arts, Media and Design (FAMD), South Asian University, conducted its Orientation Programme for the Academic Session 2026-27, welcoming new doctoral scholars and the inaugural batch of the M.A. in Journalism and Digital Media. The programme introduced students to the Faculty's academic structure, interdisciplinary approach and future vision. Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean, FAMD, encouraged students to engage across disciplines and make full use of the University's academic opportunities. Faculty members from the Departments of English and Media Studies provided an overview of programmes and academic pathways. The orientation also featured student introductions, a film screening and interaction with faculty, setting the stage for an academically collaborative and intellectually vibrant year.



FAMD Welcomes New Doctoral Scholars and Inaugural M.A. Cohort



Integrated BS-MS Students Begin Third Semester with Interactive Welcome Session

The Faculties of Interdisciplinary Studies and Physical Sciences, South Asian University, organised an Interactive Welcome Session, "Reboot: Monsoon Kickoff," for Integrated BS-MS students beginning their third semester on 3 August 2026. The programme facilitated interaction between students and faculty while providing an overview of the academic roadmap, curriculum and opportunities for the new semester. Dr. Jyotsna Sharma, Associate Dean, Faculty of Physical Sciences, welcomed the students, while Prof. Dinesh Kumar, Dean, Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies, emphasised interdisciplinary learning, academic excellence and innovation. Faculty members also introduced new colleagues and discussed academic initiatives, including EDG and IDOE. An interactive session enabled students to reflect on their first-year experiences and expectations, strengthening faculty-student engagement and academic community.

South Asian University conducted the Orientation Programme for its first-year B.Tech. students in Computer Science & Engineering on 13 August 2026, marking the beginning of their academic journey at the University. Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President, SAU, encouraged students to explore the breadth of Computer Science with curiosity, creativity and analytical ability, while making full use of faculty expertise and University resources. Prof. Pranab Muhuri, Vice President (Administration) & Dean, CSE, and Prof. Kapil Sharma, Vice President (Academic), welcomed the new cohort and highlighted the opportunities for learning, innovation and interdisciplinary engagement. The orientation introduced students to the academic environment and encouraged them to approach their studies with ambition, creativity and a spirit of innovation.



SAU Welcomes Inaugural B.Tech. Cohort in Computer Science

The Faculty of Arts, Media and Design (FAMD), South Asian University, welcomed its inaugural batch of the B.A. (Hons.) in Arts, Media and Design through an Orientation Programme for the new academic session. The programme introduced students to the Faculty's interdisciplinary academic vision and opportunities across arts, media, design, journalism and digital communication. Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean, FAMD, encouraged students to approach their education with curiosity, creativity and critical thinking and highlighted the special responsibility of the inaugural cohort in shaping the Faculty's culture and identity. The orientation also introduced students to the academic team and the Faculty's emphasis on research, innovation and meaningful engagement with society.



FAMD Welcomes Inaugural B.A. (Hons.) Arts, Media and Design Batch



Preparing Future-Ready Managers from Day 0

The Faculty of Management, South Asian University, organised a Day 0 session for incoming students across BBA, MBA, Integrated programmes, Business Analytics & AI and PhD streams, focusing on the emerging concept of the AI-native manager. Led by Kevika Singla, the session explored how artificial intelligence is transforming management roles, workplace expectations and career pathways. Students examined the growing importance of combining AI capabilities with business judgment, critical thinking, problem-solving and human decision-making. Practical examples demonstrated how AI can support research, analysis, decision-making and business communication. The cross-programme format encouraged diverse perspectives and highlighted the intersection of business, technology, data and AI, preparing students to engage thoughtfully with an increasingly AI-enabled professional environment.

Presidential Connect



Strengthening Bhutan-India Academic and People-to-People Engagement

South Asian University (SAU) hosted Ambassador Maj. Gen. Vetsop Namgyel of the Royal Bhutanese Embassy, New Delhi, accompanied by Shri Dorji Khandu, Counsellor (Political). During his visit, Ambassador Namgyel met with Hon'ble President, SAU, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, in an interaction focused on strengthening academic engagement and fostering a deeper understanding of Bhutan-India relations. The meeting was attended by Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi, Dr. Medha Bisht and Dr. Anmol Mukhia from the Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies.

The meeting with the President provided an opportunity to discuss the role of SAU as a regional institution in facilitating academic and intellectual engagement among South Asian countries. The interaction also highlighted the importance of connecting diplomatic perspectives with academic inquiry, particularly on issues shaping contemporary regional relations. President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal's engagement with the Ambassador underscored SAU's commitment to creating platforms where diplomats, scholars and students can exchange perspectives and deepen understanding of developments within the region.

As part of the visit, Ambassador Namgyel delivered a guest lecture on "India-Bhutan Relations and Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC)", organised by the Department of International Relations. He also interacted with students, sharing insights into the evolving bilateral relationship and the vision behind GMC. The visit reflected President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal's emphasis on strengthening SAU's engagement with the diplomatic community and creating opportunities for students to gain first-hand perspectives on contemporary developments across South Asia.



President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal Leads Engagement with University of Vaasa, Finland

Hon'ble President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal led an SAU delegation in a high-level meeting with the University of Vaasa, Finland, in Helsinki. The delegation included Prof. Pranab K. Muhuri, Vice-President (Administration) and Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, and Dr. Amit K. Shukla, Associate Professor. The University of Vaasa delegation comprised Prof. Martin Meyer, Vice-Rector for International Affairs, and Prof. Raine Hermans, Dean, School of Technology and Innovations.

The discussions explored opportunities for collaboration in research, innovation and higher education, drawing upon the complementary strengths of the two institutions. Areas discussed included joint research, faculty and student mobility, collaborative academic programmes and innovation-led initiatives in fields including energy, business, technology and sustainability. The engagement reflects President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal's efforts to position SAU within a wider network of international academic institutions and create new avenues for knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary research and global opportunities for SAU's students and faculty.



President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal Advances SAU-MDI Murshidabad Collaboration

Professor Jayanthi Ranjan, Director, Management Development Institute Murshidabad (MDI-M), called on Hon'ble President, South Asian University, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, to discuss areas of mutual interest and further advance academic cooperation between the two institutions. The meeting focused on translating the existing institutional partnership into concrete academic initiatives, including academic immersion and exchange programmes, a joint annual conference, joint PhD supervision, double-degree programmes and student recruitment from the BIMSTEC and MENA regions.

The collaboration agenda was conceived and facilitated by Prof. Pooran Chandra Pandey, Director, Climate Centre, who will coordinate follow-up actions towards developing an agreed framework for cooperation. SAU and MDI-M had signed an MoU in the previous year, providing an institutional foundation for the partnership. The meeting with President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal marked an important step towards strengthening implementation of the MoU and expanding opportunities for academic exchange, research collaboration and student engagement. It also reflects the President's focus on developing meaningful institutional partnerships with potential for sustained academic outcomes.

Outreach Activities

AMITY COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
AMITY UNIVERSITY HARYANA
 and
SHIKSHA SANSKRITI UTTHAN NYAS, HARYANA

Six-Day Faculty Development Programme (FDP)
"Bhartiyata in Management and Commerce"
 (Indian Knowledge Traditions, Values and Contemporary Business Relevance)

24-29 August, 2026

DAY 6 29 August, 2026 (Saturday) **VALEDICTORY SESSION**

CONFERENCE IN HONOURS
PROF. DR. ABINASH KUMAR JHA
 Associate Professor & Director (PR & Media), South Asian University, New Delhi

CHIEF GUEST
ADV. DR. BHASUK NATH JHA
 Assistant Professor, Wadhwa Institute of Management, University of Mumbai

SPEAKER
MR. ABHINAV RANJAN
 Public Policy Professional, Ministry of Education, Government of India

SPECIAL GUEST
DR. RAVINDRA SHARMA
 Assistant Professor, School of Management & Innovation, South Asian University, New Delhi

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Understanding the legacy of Swadeshi and sustainability
- Exploring the role of Swadeshi in contemporary business
- Innovation as a driver of sustainable growth
- Setting up a business in India: Opportunities & Challenges
- Building a sustainable and globally competitive brand

SESSION COORDINATOR
DR. JYOTI KUKREJA
 Assistant Professor, South Asian University, New Delhi

Dr. Abinash Kumar Jha Joins Amity University Haryana Faculty Development Programme

Dr. Abinash Kumar Jha, Associate Professor and Director (PR & Media), South Asian University, participated as the Guest of Honour at the Valedictory Session of the Six-Day Faculty Development Programme on "Bhartiyata In Management and Commerce", organised by Amity College of Commerce, Amity University Haryana, in association with Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, Haryana. His participation represented SAU's engagement with wider academic and faculty development initiatives.

The programme brought together faculty members for discussions on management and commerce, with a focus on perspectives rooted in Indian knowledge traditions and their relevance to contemporary education and professional practice. Dr. Jha's participation further contributed to South Asian University's academic outreach and engagement with institutions and initiatives across the higher education sector.



Prof. Pooran Chandra Pandey Shares Climate Insights on Nepal Floods on Sansad TV

Prof. Pooran Chandra Pandey, Director, Climate Centre, South Asian University, participated in the Mudda Apka programme on Sansad TV, where he shared his views on the recent floods in Nepal. Drawing on climate science and climate change research, Prof. Pandey explained how rising CO₂ levels and emissions contribute to glacier melt and the movement of rocks, silt and debris, potentially obstructing river channels and worsening flood situations. He also discussed concerns regarding delays in early warning and information sharing between China and Nepal, highlighting the importance of strengthening early warning systems.



FAMD Students Engage with Leading Film and Media Professionals at Dainik Jagran Film Festival

Students of the Faculty of Arts, Media & Design (FAMD), attended the Dainik Jagran Film Festival 2026 at the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The students attended film screenings and interacted with acclaimed professionals including Sayani Gupta, Lillete Dubey, Jaaved Jaaferi, Sheeba Chaddha, Aparna Purohit and Shobha Sant. They also participated in the panel discussion "Women in Films", which explored changing representations and opportunities for women in cinema.



Dr. Medha Bisht Presents Research and Chairs Panel on South Asian Regional Politics in Colombo

Dr. Medha Bisht, Associate Professor (Senior Grade), Department of International Relations, South Asian University, participated in an international academic engagement organised by ISA-South Asia in Colombo. Dr. Bisht presented a paper titled "Regional Practices from South Asia: Conversations with International Water Law", contributing to discussions on regional practices and their relationship with international water law. She also chaired and organised a panel on "China's Diplomatic Practices in South Asia: Relational-Generative Perspectives." Her participation brought together two important areas of contemporary South Asian scholarship—regional water politics and China's diplomatic engagement in the region.



Dr. Medha Bisht Contributes to Policy Dialogue on India-Bangladesh Water Politics

Dr. Medha Bisht, Associate Professor (Senior Grade), Department of International Relations, South Asian University, was invited to participate in a closed-door roundtable organised by the Chintan Research Foundation (CRF), New Delhi. The discussion focused on developments in water politics between India and Bangladesh following the transition of Sheikh Hasina. Dr. Bisht brought her expertise in international relations and South Asian politics to the discussion, contributing to a policy-oriented exchange on an issue central to bilateral relations and regional cooperation.



Dr. Piyashi Dutta Explores Tribal Worldviews and Ethical AI at IIT Delhi

Dr. Piyashi Dutta, Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts, Media and Design, South Asian University, delivered an invited talk titled "Tribal Worldviews and Epistemic Plurality: Reimagining Ethical AI" on 16 August 2026 as part of the AI/ML for Industry: Campus Immersion Programme, organised by the Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence, IIT Delhi. Her talk examined the relevance of tribal worldviews and epistemic plurality to contemporary debates on artificial intelligence, with particular emphasis on ethical, inclusive and culturally responsive approaches to AI. Dr. Dutta also highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary perspectives in understanding AI and its wider social and cultural implications.



Prof. Ramesh C. Gaur Contributes to BRICS Culture Ministers' Declaration

Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Media and Design, South Asian University, participated as a member of the Indian Delegation at the XI BRICS Cultural Working Group and Culture Ministers' Meeting, held in Bhopal from 5-8 August 2026 under India's BRICS Chairship. As part of the delegation, Prof. Gaur coordinated the development and finalisation of the content of the BRICS Culture Ministers' Declaration, working closely with the Ministry of Culture, IGNCA and representatives of BRICS Member States.



Prof. Ramesh C. Gaur Addresses Future-Ready Inclusive Universities at World Inclusion Conference

Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Design, South Asian University, participated as an invited speaker at the Vice Chancellors & Higher Education Leaders Roundtable on "Building Future-Ready Inclusive Universities" during the World Inclusion Conference India 2026, held at Yashobhoomi International Convention Centre, New Delhi. The roundtable brought together higher education leaders and experts to deliberate on the future of inclusive education and universities. Prof. Gaur highlighted the importance of recognising linguistic, cultural and social diversity in developing inclusive and future-ready institutions. He emphasised the contribution of diversity to innovation, empathy and global citizenship.



Prof. Pooran Chandra Pandey Shares Global Climate Perspectives on DD India

Prof. Pooran Chandra Pandey, Director, Climate Centre, South Asian University, participated in an invited live interview with DD India, sharing his perspectives on the worsening weather conditions across parts of Western and Southern Europe, including Spain, Italy and France. Prof. Pandey discussed the influence of dry winds from North Africa on European weather patterns and explained the broader implications of climate phenomena such as El Niño. He also examined how deteriorating climatic conditions can affect agriculture, human well-being and migration patterns. Placing these developments within the wider context of human-induced climate change, he highlighted the interconnected nature of climatic impacts across continents, including the Indian subcontinent. The engagement brought SAU's expertise in climate science and regional environmental issues to a wider public audience and contributed an academic perspective to an important global climate conversation.

SAU Bookshelf

Kautilya's Arthashastra: Philosophy of Strategy

This month, South Asian University highlights *Kautilya's Arthashastra: Philosophy of Strategy* by **Dr. Medha Bisht**, Associate Professor (Senior Grade), Department of International Relations, South Asian University. Published by Routledge in 2020, the book offers a critical and theoretically informed examination of the *Arthashastra*, the classical Indian text on statecraft traditionally attributed to Kautilya and generally associated with the fourth century BCE. Situated at the intersection of political theory, philosophy and international relations, the book explores the philosophical foundations and strategic dimensions of the text, asking how its ideas can contribute to contemporary understandings of power, order, morality, statecraft and strategy.

Dr. Medha Bisht is Associate Professor (SG), Department of International Relations, South Asian University. Her research interests include transboundary water governance, conceptual histories and Asian strategic thought. She combines extensive consultancy experience with UN agencies (UNIFEM, UNDP), international /hybrid organisations (IUCN, OXFAM), and bilateral programs (DFID/Asia Foundation) with scholarly publications in leading journals including *Global Studies Quarterly*, *International Studies*, *Water Policy*, *Water Alternatives*, *Journal of Indian Ocean Region* and the *Hague Journal of Diplomacy*.

Dr. Bisht has lectured at India's Sushma Swaraj Foreign Service Institute, the United States Foreign Service Institute, Military Headquarters of War, Defence Service Staff College, Wellington and delivered training modules at UNECE to international diplomats and mid career working professionals where she brings both theoretical depth and practical diplomatic insights to complex security and governance challenges. She has led and contributed to international collaborative projects on water diplomacy across South Asia, Europe, and North America while has served on regional working groups for transboundary river management and climate adaptation.

The book is organised around three broad concerns: the philosophical and strategic foundations of the *Arthashastra*, the relationship between morality, power and order in *Kautilyan* thought, and the contribution of these ideas to non-Western approaches to international relations. Dr. Bisht uses a hermeneutic approach to examine the relationship between philosophy, concepts and political practice, placing the *Arthashastra* in conversation with the Indian intellectual traditions of the *Dharmashastras* and *Nitishastras*, as well as with Western strategic thought.

The study examines questions of ends and means, the nature of the *Kautilyan state*, statecraft, and the conditions that make particular political strategies desirable and feasible. It further develops a systems-oriented understanding of morality, power and order and examines how concepts within the *Arthashastra* can be read beyond their historical context. By bringing these themes together, the book argues for the importance of engaging with non-Western vocabularies of state and statecraft and demonstrates how classical Indian strategic thought can enrich contemporary debates in international relations and political theory. It also draws on classical works such as the *Hitopadesha* and *Panchatantra* to highlight continuities in political strategies, tactics and styles, while challenging the dominance of Western intellectual traditions in theorising international relations.



Dr. Medha Bisht, Associate Professor (SG), Department of International Relations, South Asian University

Did You Know?

August in South Asia: Independence, Identity and Shared Histories

August holds special significance across South Asia, with several SAARC nations celebrating their Independence during the month. These commemorations reflect the region's diverse histories, journeys towards nationhood, and shared experiences.



Afghanistan — Afghanistan observes **Independence Day** on 19 August, commemorating the 1919 Anglo-Afghan Treaty.



Maldives – The **Fari Islands Festival** brought together music, art, gastronomy, wellness and cultural programming in the Maldives from 13–15 August 2026.



Bangladesh – **Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi** was observed in Bangladesh on 25 August 2026, marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.



Nepal – **Gai Jatra**, celebrated particularly in the Kathmandu Valley, commemorates loved ones who have died during the preceding year.



Bhutan – **Genekha Mushroom Festival** was celebrated on 15–16 August, held annually, celebrates Bhutan's rich forest produce and local mushroom traditions.



Pakistan – Pakistan celebrated its **80th Independence Day** on 14 August 2026. National ceremonies, cultural programmes, exhibitions and public celebrations marked the occasion across the country.



India – India celebrated its **80th Independence Day** on 15 August, with national ceremonies and cultural programmes across the country.



Sri Lanka – **Kandy Esala Perahera**, with the Randoli processions held on 25–27 August. The festival is one of Sri Lanka's most important living traditions, combining religious observance with Kandyan dance, drumming and procession.

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

- Afghanistan (Dari): آزادی (Azadi)
- Bangladesh (Bengali): স্বাধীনতা (Shadhinota)
- Bhutan (Dzongkha): རང་བཙན་ (Rangwang)
- India (Hindi): स्वतंत्रता (Swatantrata)
- Maldives (Dhivehi): ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ޖުމްހޫރިއްޔާ (Minivankan)
- Nepal (Nepali): स्वतन्त्रता (Swatantrata)
- Pakistan (Urdu): آزادی (Azadi)
- Sri Lanka (Sinhala): නිදහස (Nidahasa)

What's New

Central Kitchen Inaugurated at SAU

The Central Kitchen at South Asian University was inaugurated on 5 August 2026 by Hon'ble SAU President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal and renowned academician Prof. Saroj Aggarwal. The inauguration marks an important step towards enhancing dining services and ensuring quality, hygiene and efficiency for the student community. The occasion was attended by the Vice Presidents, Registrar, Proctor, Deans, faculty members, officials and students.



Welcome On-board



Prof. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty
joined as NASI Senior
Scientist



Dr. Ankita Das, joined the
Faculty of Chemical Sciences
(FCS) as Assistant Professor



Dr. Harsha Man Maharjan,
joined the Faculty of Arts,
Media & Design as Assistant
Professor (SG).

Upcoming Events

September
1
2026

Valedictory Ceremony of the Forty-Hour Mediation Certificate Training Programme, organised by the Legal Aid Clinic, Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi, in collaboration with the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Supreme Court of India.

September
1-3
2026

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, New Delhi, will organise an IVSA Workshop on "Visual Research in South and Southeast Asia: Methodological Opportunities, Challenges and Ethical Concerns" from 1-3 September 2026.

September
3
2026

The Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies, will conduct a Panel Book Discussion on "Green Power Politics and Climate Change: The Future of Environmental Politics in the Indo-Pacific"

September
7-8
2026

Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University — Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series featuring Prof. Ranbir Singh, Founding Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, and Founding Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi.

September
8
2026

Legal Aid Clinic, Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, is organising a lecture on "How to Attain Perfection in the Legal Profession." The lecture will be delivered by Hon. Justice J. R. Midha, Former Judge, High Court of Delhi.

September
6-13
2026

Welcome Tournament, organised by the Sports Board, South Asian University, will be held from 6 to 13 September 2026, bringing together participants in the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie.



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Print-line

- **Patron-in-Chief:** Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Honourable President
- **Patron:** Prof. Pranab Muhuri, Vice President; Prof. Kapil Sharma, Vice President; Prof. Ritu Gaur, Vice President,
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- **Editor:** Pallavi Kaushik
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SAU Click



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