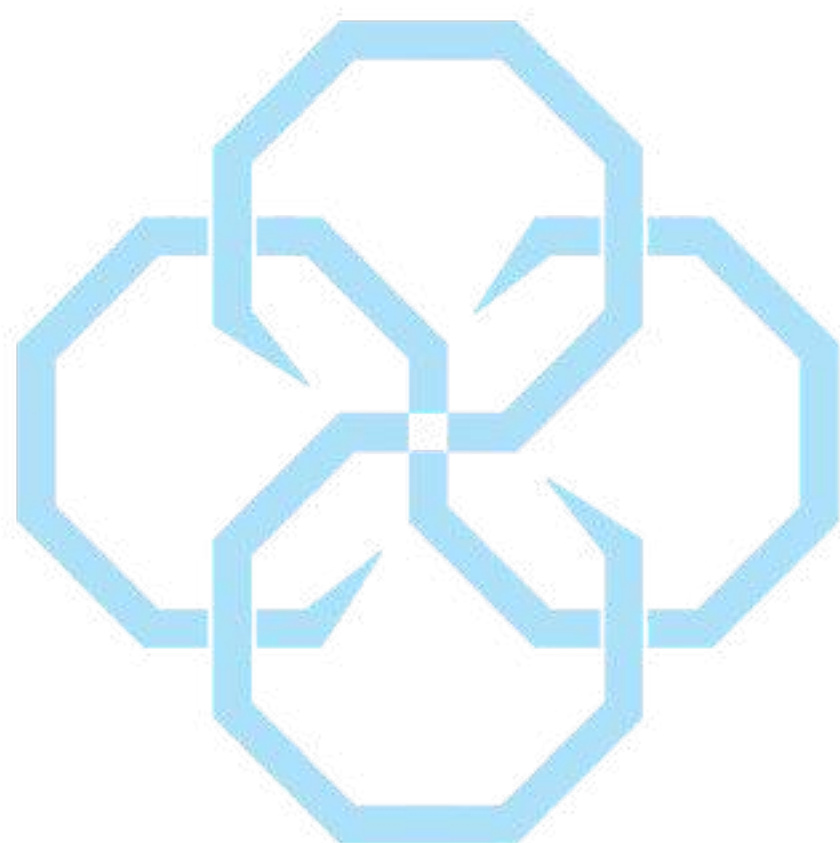




SAU
SOUTH ASIAN
UNIVERSITY

SAU CONNECT

Monthly Newsletter
September 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

SAU continues to strengthen its commitment to academic excellence, research and regional cooperation. In September, the University advanced these priorities through academic collaborations, scholarly exchanges and engagement with the wider academic community.

The international workshop on Visual Research in South and Southeast Asia brought scholars together to examine emerging methodologies and ethical concerns in visual research. The MoUs with the the Agriculture and Food Systems Institute (AFSI), Washington, DC, USA, and the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Colombo, further strengthened opportunities for research collaboration and knowledge exchange.

I also participated in the EduSkills HR Summit 2026 in Jaipur, where discussions focused on the role of artificial intelligence in education, skills development and employability, while emphasising the enduring importance of teaching and learning.

The University's academic progress is further reflected in the research, publications and achievements of its faculty and students. These efforts continue to enrich SAU's academic environment and strengthen its contribution to higher education in the region.

As we move forward, SAU remains committed to advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration and strengthening its regional mission in keeping with our vision of Knowledge Without Borders.



From the Editorial Team

September at South Asian University reflected the breadth of learning and engagement that defines university life. From discussions on intellectual property rights and patents to expert lectures in mathematics, law, biotechnology and international relations, the month offered students and researchers opportunities to explore new ideas, engage with specialists and look beyond the boundaries of their disciplines.

Student development remained an important focus, with industry interactions involving HCLTech, Oracle and GoTezu providing practical perspectives on career pathways and workplace expectations. Initiatives such as the internal Smart India Hackathon encouraged innovation, while sessions on mental health and wellbeing and the Gender Talk on sexual harassment highlighted the importance of a supportive, informed and responsible campus community. The Asia-Pacific Forum on RNA Therapeutics and Vaccines further brought together researchers and professionals to discuss advances in science and their potential applications in healthcare.

This issue also captures the diversity of intellectual conversations at SAU, spanning media literacy, environmental politics, legal education and the relationship between knowledge traditions and artificial intelligence. Together, these engagements reflect a learning environment that values inquiry, dialogue, creativity and practical application.

Through SAU Connect, the Editorial Team seeks to bring these varied activities and achievements into one shared narrative, recognising the efforts of the people who make them possible. We thank the faculty members, departments, centres and students who contributed to this issue and helped us document the many dimensions of university life.

We hope readers enjoy this glimpse into the month's activities and continue to share their stories, milestones and initiatives with us.

Highlight of the month



Visual Research in South and Southeast Asia: IVSA Workshop

South Asian University, New Delhi, hosted the **International Visual Sociology Association (IVSA) workshop**, Visual Research in South and Southeast Asia: Methodological Opportunities, Challenges and Ethical Concerns, as part of IVSA's 40th Anniversary activities. The **two-day academic programme** brought together scholars, researchers and visual practitioners working across photography, visual ethnography, film, digital imagery, archives and participatory visual methods.

The workshop opened with an inaugural session featuring **Prof. Sara Parker**, Professor of Collaborative Research, Liverpool John Moores University; **Prof. Ernesto Noronha**, Professor of Organisational Behaviour, IIM Ahmedabad; **Dr. Dev Nath Pathak**, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, SAU; **Dr. Man Bahadur Khattri**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Tribhuvan University; and **Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, SAU. The session set the stage for discussions on the methodological possibilities, challenges and ethical dimensions of visual research.

The first day featured thematic sessions on Photography, Photovoice and Photo Narrative; Visual Ethnography and Participatory Visual Research; and Text, Visuals and Archives. The second day expanded these conversations through sessions on Technology, Platforms and Digital Visibility; Visual Arts and Performative Visibility; and Cinematic Visuals, Film and Documentary.

Facilitated thematic discussions further explored Art-Based Methods and Co-Creation, led by Dr. Hannah Schwarz, and Digital, Visual and Ethnographic Sensibilities, facilitated by Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy, Prof. Ernesto Noronha and Dr. Man Bahadur Khattri. The academic programme concluded with a group report-back and debrief, followed by a closing ceremony attended by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Honourable President, SAU, as Chief Guest. A cultural programme by Sociology students added a celebratory close to the workshop. The programme also included a visual excursion to Delhi's heritage sites, extending the workshop's engagement with visual research into the city's historical and cultural landscape.

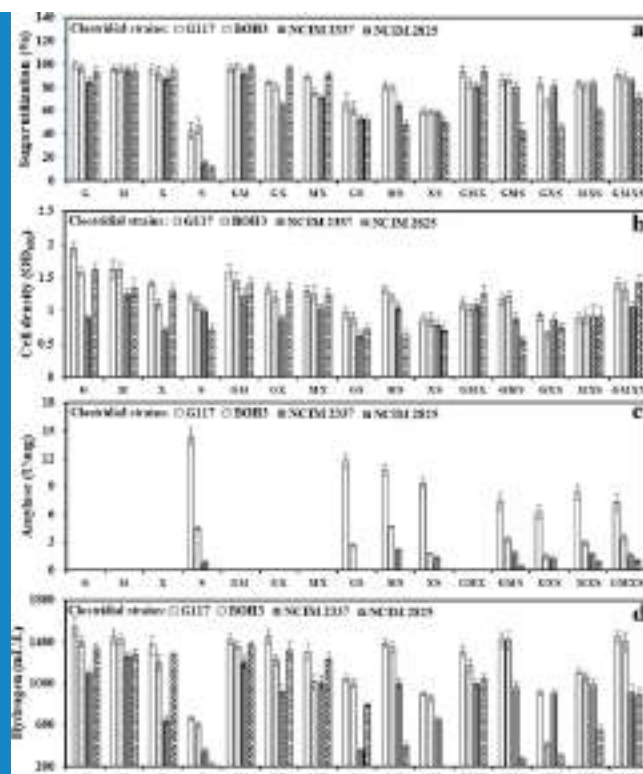
Research Spotlight

Biohydrogen Production from Agricultural Bran Waste

By Dr. A. K. R. Gobinath and research scholars from the Industrial Biotechnology Laboratory, Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, South Asian University, published in *Waste and Biomass Valorization* (Springer Nature), 2026.

Agricultural residues offer a potential resource for producing renewable energy. This study investigates the conversion of oat, rice and wheat bran into biohydrogen through microbial fermentation, exploring how agricultural by-products can be used as feedstock for clean-energy production. The researchers evaluated two approaches: separate hydrolysis and fermentation (SHF), in which the bran is pretreated to release fermentable sugars, and consolidated bioprocessing (CBP), which enables the microorganism to break down and ferment the bran directly.

The study screened four *Clostridium* strains for their ability to produce hydrogen and break down starch. The findings identify *Clostridium beijerinckii* G117 as a promising candidate for biohydrogen production from both pretreated and untreated bran, demonstrating the potential of agricultural waste as a renewable energy resource.



Biohydrogen Production Using Pretreated and Native Oat, Rice, and Wheat Brans by *Clostridium beijerinckii* G117

Key Findings

1. Agricultural Bran Can Serve as a Feedstock for Biohydrogen

The study demonstrates that oat, rice and wheat bran can be used to produce biohydrogen through microbial fermentation. These starchy agricultural residues provide an alternative feedstock for renewable energy production, offering a productive use for materials that might otherwise have limited economic value.

2. *Clostridium beijerinckii* G117 Emerges as a Promising Strain

Among the four *Clostridium* strains evaluated, *C. beijerinckii* G117 demonstrated the highest amylase activity and a hydrogen yield of 257 mL per gram in the initial strain-screening assessment. Amylase helps break down starch into simpler sugars that can be used during fermentation.

3. Pretreatment Enables Substantial Hydrogen Production

The researchers used mild acid and moist-heat pretreatment to release fermentable components from the bran. Fermentation of the resulting hydrolysates produced up to 3,280 mL of biohydrogen per litre, with a reported yield of 340 mL per gram of total soluble sugars and a yield of 2.76 moles of hydrogen per mole of glucose.

4. Direct Processing of Untreated Bran Shows Further Potential

The study also explored consolidated bioprocessing, in which the microorganism acts directly on untreated bran. *C. beijerinckii* G117 secreted enzymes, including amylase and xylanase, that helped break down the raw material. Direct fermentation produced up to 3,960 mL of biohydrogen per litre, with yields comparable to those obtained through the pretreatment-based approach.

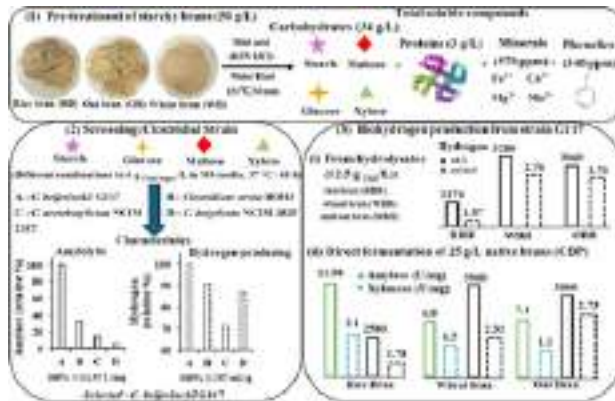
5. Consolidated Bioprocessing Offers a Promising Route for Waste Valorisation

Mass and electron balance analyses indicated processing efficiencies of 83–93% for consolidated bioprocessing, compared with 72–96% for separate hydrolysis and fermentation. The researchers also found that oat and wheat bran supported higher biohydrogen yields than rice bran under direct-processing conditions. These findings establish the potential of consolidated bioprocessing as an approach for converting starchy agricultural residues into renewable energy.

Implications for Sustainable Energy

The research demonstrates two approaches for converting agricultural bran into biohydrogen and highlights the potential of using untreated residues directly. By harnessing the natural enzyme-producing capacity of *C. beijerinckii* G117, consolidated bioprocessing may reduce reliance on separate hydrolysis steps and external enzymes. Further work would be needed to assess process economics, scalability and performance under industrial conditions.

The study contributes to research on waste valorisation and biological hydrogen production by demonstrating that agricultural residues can serve as viable substrates for fermentation. Its findings provide a basis for further investigation into processes that combine agricultural-waste utilisation with renewable-energy generation.



Conclusion

The study demonstrates the potential of agricultural bran waste as a feedstock for biological hydrogen production and highlights the role of microbial fermentation in converting starchy residues into renewable energy. By comparing pretreatment-based fermentation with consolidated bioprocessing, the research explores approaches that could make agricultural-waste valorisation more efficient.

The findings identify *Clostridium beijerinckii* G117 as a promising microorganism for biohydrogen production from oat, rice and wheat bran. In particular, the results from consolidated bioprocessing indicate the possibility of producing hydrogen directly from untreated bran, reducing the need for separate pretreatment and hydrolysis steps. Further research on process optimisation, economic feasibility and scale-up will be important to determine the potential for wider application.

The research contributes to ongoing efforts to develop sustainable energy pathways that make productive use of agricultural residues. By linking waste utilisation with renewable-fuel production, it offers a scientific basis for further exploration of biohydrogen as part of a more resource-efficient energy system.



The research was conducted by Akanksha Jain, Md. Ebrahim Khalil, Phuntsho Yenten, Sidharth UC, and Gobinath Rajagopalan (Industrial Biotechnology Laboratory, Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, South Asian University); Venkata Giridhar Poosarla (GITAM School of Science, GITAM, Visakhapatnam); Aruliah Rajasekar (Department of Biotechnology, Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore); Vignesh Natarajan (Department of Bioengineering, National Institute of Technology Agartala); Chandraraj Krishnan (Bhupat and Jyoti Mehta School of Biosciences, Indian Institute of Technology Madras); and Kun Lin Yang (Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, National University of Singapore). Gobinath Rajagopalan is also affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Center of Excellence on Climate Change, Green Transition and Sustainability, South Asian University. The paper, titled "Biohydrogen Production Using Pretreated and Native Oat, Rice, and Wheat Brans by *Clostridium beijerinckii* G117," was published in *Waste and Biomass Valorization* (Springer Nature), 2026. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12649-026-03753-2>.

Research and Publications

Visual Essay Published in Visual Studies

Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy, Department of Sociology, South Asian University, along with Anjuman Ara, an MA graduate in Sociology from SAU, has published a visual essay titled “Festival and Faith: Visualising Social Cohesion of Sakrain in Old Dhaka, Bangladesh” in *Visual Studies*, a Q1 journal published by Routledge. The visual essay examines Sakrain, a traditional festival celebrated in Old Dhaka, through visual research to explore the ways in which festival practices, faith and community participation contribute to social cohesion. The publication reflects the authors’ engagement with visual sociology and demonstrates the potential of visual methods to illuminate social and cultural processes. The work contributes to broader scholarship on visibility, community, faith and social relationships in South Asian contexts, while highlighting the research emerging from the Department of Sociology at SAU.



Research on Climate Security Published in The Diplomat

Mr. Tekraj Koirala, PhD Scholar in the Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, has published an article in *The Diplomat* titled “The Climate Crisis Is Stretching the Nepali Military Beyond Its Limits.” Drawing on his doctoral research on the role of the military in environmental security, with Nepal as a case study, the article examines the growing implications of climate change for security institutions and military preparedness. It explores how increasing climate-related risks are expanding the responsibilities of armed forces while creating new demands for institutional adaptation and strategic planning. Mr. Koirala is pursuing his doctoral research under the supervision of Dr. Medha Bisht, Associate Professor (SG), FIS. The publication contributes to contemporary discussions on climate security, environmental security and the evolving relationship between climate change and national security.



LL.M. Scholar's Research Published in Conference Volume

Aditya Anand, LL.M. (International Law) student at South Asian University, presented his research paper, “Disenfranchised Mobility: A Legal and Policy Analysis of Barriers to Voter Registration for Migrant Workers in India,” at the International Conference on “Voter Registration and Voter Registers 2026”, held in Ranchi on 2-3 September 2026. Organised by the Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand, under the direction of the Election Commission of India, the conference brought together researchers, legal professionals, government officials and electoral stakeholders. The paper examined legal and practical barriers faced by migrant workers in accessing voter registration, particularly in relation to mobility, ordinary residence and electoral inclusion. Following a competitive selection process, the research was published as a chapter in Volume II, Theory, Awareness, Inclusion and Technology, of the conference publication *Voter Registration and Voter Registers*, carrying ISBN 978-81-688122-0-8.



PhD Scholar Participates in The Asian Dialogue 2026

Maiwand Safi, PhD Scholar in International Relations at South Asian University, participated in The Asian Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi. Working under the supervision of Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi, his participation brought him into academic and policy conversations on Asia's evolving geopolitical landscape and the emerging challenges shaping the region. The dialogue provided a platform for scholars, policymakers and young researchers to exchange perspectives on contemporary regional developments and questions of strategic significance. Safi's engagement also complemented his ongoing doctoral research on the geopolitics of connectivity in Afghanistan, providing an opportunity to situate his research within wider discussions on regional connectivity, geopolitics and changing political dynamics in Asia.



Research on Plant Stress Responses Published in Plant Science

Dr. Ananda Mustafiz, Associate Professor (SG), Plant Molecular Biology Laboratory, South Asian University, along with his PhD scholars Nikita Yadav, Arushi Jain, Preeti Nagar, Rakhi and Abhilasha Shekhawat, has published a research paper titled "PSKR: An LRR-RLK, enhances oxidative stress tolerance by modulating ROS-driven stomatal closure" in Plant Science, published by Elsevier. The study examines the role of Phytosulfokine Receptor (PSKR) in plant responses to oxidative stress, with particular focus on the regulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS)-mediated stomatal closure. The findings provide insights into the molecular mechanisms associated with oxidative stress tolerance and plant adaptation.



Research on AI and Editorial Gatekeeping Published by IGI Global

Dr. Nipunika Shahid, Faculty of Arts, Media and Design, South Asian University, has contributed a chapter titled "Hybrid Gatekeeping: Negotiated Editorial Judgment in Algorithmic Broadcast Newsrooms: Ethical Tensions in Human Agency," co-authored with Pulkit Jain. The chapter has been published by IGI Global in the international edited volume AI and the Transformation of Media: Ethics, Culture, Creativity, and Communication. The contribution examines the changing nature of editorial decision-making in broadcast newsrooms as artificial intelligence and algorithmic systems become increasingly integrated into journalistic processes. It explores the relationship between algorithmic intervention, human editorial judgment and ethical responsibility, highlighting the tensions that arise when technology participates in processes traditionally guided by professional discretion.



Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy Presents Research at World Congress of Korean Studies

Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy, Department of Sociology, South Asian University, presented his research at the 13th World Congress of Korean Studies, held at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan. The World Congress is a major international academic gathering that brings together scholars and researchers engaged with Korean Studies from across the world. Dr. Roy's participation provided an opportunity to present his research before an international scholarly audience and engage with wider academic discussions in the field. During the Congress, he also had the distinction of presenting his book to the President of the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS), an institution dedicated to the advancement and promotion of Korean Studies globally.



Collaborations

SAU and AFSI Partner to Advance Biosafety, Agri-Biotechnology and Modern Food Systems

The Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies (FIDS), South Asian University, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Agriculture and Food Systems Institute (AFSI), Washington, DC, USA, on 8 September 2026. The agreement, signed by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President, SAU, and Dr. Andrew Roberts, CEO, AFSI, establishes a collaborative framework for bioscience research, capacity building and agricultural biotechnology governance across South Asia.

The partnership will focus on joint research, technical workshops and academic publications relating to environmental risk assessment and safety evaluation of genetically engineered and gene-edited crops. It will also create opportunities for SAU students and faculty to undertake hands-on research at AFSI in Washington, DC, gaining exposure to international regulatory frameworks, safety databases and practices in biotechnology governance.

The two institutions will further explore specialised short courses, seasonal schools and professional workshops on biosafety and food safety standards, alongside faculty exchanges and academic symposia. The collaboration is intended to strengthen regional expertise in evaluating emerging bio-innovations and supporting evidence-based approaches to sustainable agri-food systems.

To mark the partnership, FIDS organised an interactive session for students of the BSMS (Integrated Sciences) programme with Dr. Roberts and Dr. Vibha Ahuja, former Chief General Manager, BCIL, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. Moderated by Prof. Dinesh Kumar, Dean, FIDS, the discussion covered food safety dossiers, contemporary biosafety regulation and emerging opportunities in biotechnology regulatory affairs and international trade policy. The partnership marks an important step towards connecting academic research, regulatory expertise and professional capacity building in the region.



SAU and RCSS Strengthen Academic and Research Cooperation with Sri Lanka

South Asian University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Colombo, Sri Lanka, to strengthen academic and research cooperation and advance greater regional engagement across South Asia. The partnership provides a framework for joint research, knowledge exchange, capacity building, publications, policy dialogue, conferences and opportunities for young scholars.

At the virtual launch, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President, SAU, described the partnership as an important step in strengthening the University's relationship with Sri Lanka and reaffirmed SAU's commitment to advancing the SAARC mandate. He also highlighted the potential for expanding SAU's regional presence, including exploring opportunities for campuses across South Asia.

Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, Executive Director, RCSS, emphasised the scope for collaborative research, policy dialogue and knowledge exchange, while Ambassador Esala Weerakoon, former Foreign Secretary of Sri Lanka and former Secretary-General of SAARC, underlined the role of knowledge and dialogue in fostering regional consciousness. Prof. Amal Jayawardane, former Executive Director, RCSS, also highlighted the potential for a strong platform for collaborative research and regional engagement.

The launch was attended by senior representatives from both institutions, including Prof. Kapil Sharma, Prof. Ritu Gaur, Prof. Ritu Gupta, Dr. Medha Bisht and Dr. Shweta Singh from SAU, along with the RCSS Board and staff in Colombo. The collaboration was facilitated through the engagement of Dr. Shweta Singh and the Centre for International Collaboration and Outreach. The MoU also received extensive coverage in leading Sri Lankan media, reflecting its significance for strengthening academic and regional ties between India and Sri Lanka.



New Course

Credit-Based Certificate Course on Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence

South Asian University (SAU), in collaboration with the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies (ICPS), New Delhi, is organising a five-day Credit-Based Certificate Course on Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence from 26 to 30 October 2026. The hybrid programme will be conducted at the Parliament Library Building, New Delhi, with an online participation option, and will comprise 30 hours of instruction carrying two academic credits. The joint certification will be awarded by ICPS and SAU.

The course is designed to provide participants with an interdisciplinary understanding of emerging challenges at the intersection of technology, law, governance and public policy. It will cover key areas including artificial intelligence governance, cybersecurity, data protection laws and evolving policy and regulatory frameworks. The programme will bring together eminent parliamentarians, former judges, senior bureaucrats, academicians and policy experts, offering participants perspectives from constitutional, legal, administrative, academic and policy domains.

A distinctive feature of the programme will be an exclusive tour of the New Parliament House, Samvidhan Sadan and the Parliament Library, including an opportunity to view the original Constitution of India. The initiative is intended to provide participants with both conceptual understanding and institutional exposure to contemporary questions surrounding technology governance and digital security.

The course is open to students, research scholars and professionals. The registration fee is ₹5,000 for students and research scholars attending offline and ₹4,000 for online participation, while the corresponding fee for professionals is ₹7,500 and ₹6,500. Registration closes on 21 October 2026 at 5:00 PM. Through this collaborative initiative, ICPS and SAU seek to promote informed engagement with the rapidly evolving technological, legal and policy dimensions of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.



Academic Activities

The Research and Development Division, South Asian University, organised a session on “Ideas Have Owners Too: Intellectual Property Rights and Patents for Researchers and Innovators,” led by Mr. Kunal Jha of Inovatree. The session explored the journey from research ideas to protected intellectual property, with particular emphasis on patents, intellectual property rights and their relevance to researchers and innovators.

The session was chaired by Prof. Dev Nath Pathak, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences. Prof. Jagdish Chand Bansal, Dean, Research and Development Division, along with faculty members and researchers, participated in the programme.



Strengthening Awareness of Intellectual Property Rights and Patents



Gender Talks: Understanding Sexual Harassment — Rights, Responsibilities and Redressal

The Gender Sensitization and Internal Committee of South Asian University organised a Gender Talk titled “Understanding Sexual Harassment: Rights, Responsibilities and Redressal” on 30 September 2026. The session featured Dr Nidhi Gupta, Associate Professor, National Law University, New Delhi, and focused on raising awareness of sexual harassment, individual rights and responsibilities, and mechanisms for redressal. The talk provided an opportunity to engage with issues related to creating a safe, respectful and inclusive university environment.

South Asian University hosted the Asia-Pacific Forum on RNA Therapeutics and Vaccines (APFRTV 2026) on 25 September 2026 in collaboration with the One Health India Organization (OHIO), New Delhi. Held under the theme “Advancing RNA Science from Bench to Population Impact,” the forum brought together around 120 scientists, researchers, academicians, healthcare professionals, students and experts in life sciences, biotechnology, medicine and public health.

The scientific programme featured discussions on RNA therapeutics, vaccines, molecular medicine, biotechnology and translational research, along with oral and poster presentations. The forum was inaugurated by Dr. Neeta Kumar, Scientist F, ICMR, and Prof. Kapil Sharma, Vice President, SAU. Pre-conference activities included a cancer-awareness walkathon, 200-metre race and reel competition. The programme concluded with a cultural evening.



Advancing RNA Science from Bench to Population Impact

South Asian University organised a session on “Mental Health & Wellbeing on Campus” led by Ms. Kaustubhi Shukla, RCI-licensed Psychological Counsellor. The session addressed important aspects of student wellbeing, including understanding stress and anxiety, developing resilience, maintaining healthy wellbeing practices, supporting peers and recognising when professional help may be required.

Held in the presence of Prof. Navnit Jha, Dean of Students’ Welfare, along with faculty members, University officials and students, the programme provided an opportunity for meaningful discussion on mental health within the campus environment. The session highlighted the importance of building awareness, encouraging supportive peer relationships and creating an environment in which students feel comfortable seeking appropriate assistance.



Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing on Campus



Exploring the Interplay of Geometry, Group Theory and Number Theory

South Asian University hosted an expository lecture by Prof. Kapil Hari Paranjape, distinguished mathematician from Shiv Nadar University and former faculty member of IISER Mohali. A recipient of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, Prof. Paranjape delivered a lecture titled “Finite Coverings of the Punctured Plane.”

The lecture explored the interplay between Coxeter groups and number theory in the construction of finite coverings of the punctured plane. Beginning with geometric considerations, Prof. Paranjape demonstrated how group-theoretic approaches can be applied to the problem, leading to broader questions in number theory. The lecture offered faculty members and students an opportunity to engage with ideas spanning geometry, group theory and number theory, while illustrating connections between seemingly distinct mathematical areas.

South Asian University hosted a SAU Thought Cafe on “Media Literacy in the Digital Age,” featuring Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, as the speaker. The session was chaired by Prof. Ritu Gaur, Vice President (Strategy and Innovation), SAU.

The discussion examined the growing importance of media literacy in an increasingly digital information environment. It provided an opportunity to reflect on how individuals navigate, interpret and engage with information across contemporary media platforms. The interaction also highlighted the need for critical awareness and informed engagement amid rapidly evolving digital communication ecosystems.



Understanding Media Literacy in the Digital Age

The Centre for Entrepreneurship, Training & Placement (CETP), South Asian University, organised industry interaction sessions for students with professionals from HCL, Oracle and GoTezu. The sessions brought together Management, B.Tech and MBA students with industry leaders to discuss the evolving world of work, industry expectations, career opportunities and skills required in contemporary professional environments.

The interactions enabled students to gain practical perspectives on workplace expectations and understand how academic learning can translate into professional careers. Discussions also provided insights into changing industry requirements and the importance of adaptability, communication, problem-solving and professional competencies.



Strengthening Industry-Academia Engagement through Student Interactions



Law, Language, Literature and Communication: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

The Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, organised a guest lecture on “Role of Language, Literature and Communication in the Study of Law” for students of the B.A. LL.B. (Honours) and B.B.A. LL.B. (Honours) Five-Year Integrated Programme on 4 September 2026. Prof. (Dr.) Prasannanshu, Professor of English, National Law University, Delhi, delivered the lecture.

Using literary and real-world examples, including the relationship between Shakespeare and law, the lecture examined how language, literature and communication contribute to legal interpretation, reasoning and professional practice. The programme was chaired by Prof. Ritu Gupta, Dean, Faculty of Legal Studies. Faculty members and student volunteers also participated.

South Asian University hosted its Internal Smart India Hackathon on 10 September 2026, bringing together student teams from across the University to develop and present innovative technological solutions. The event provided students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge to problem-solving and demonstrate creativity, technical skills and collaborative approaches.

The projects were evaluated by a panel of faculty members, including Dr. Shachi Sharma, Dr. Bijoy Chand Chatterjee, Dr. Tamalika Chaira, Dr. Ashwini B., Dr. Rajesh Ranjan, Dr. Ankit Jain, Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Dr. Alok Agarwal, Dr. Neha Agrawal and Dr. Taniya Seth. Prof. Pranab K. Muhuri, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, and Dr. Reshma Rastogi, Associate Dean, FET, were also present. Coordinated by Shashank Sheshar Singh and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, the event selected teams for the next stage of SIH 2026.



Fostering Innovation through the Internal Smart India Hackathon 2026

The Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, organised a Distinguished Lecture on “WPS in a Changing World Order” on 10 September 2026. The lecture featured H.E. Marisa Gerards, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India, Bhutan and Nepal.

The session focused on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and its evolving significance within a changing international order. The lecture provided students and members of the academic community with an opportunity to engage with contemporary questions surrounding gender, peace, security and international affairs. The interaction with a serving diplomat also brought an international policy perspective to the discussion, complementing classroom learning in international relations.



Women, Peace and Security in a Changing World Order



Legal Aid Practicum on Excellence in the Legal Profession

The Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, under the aegis of its Legal Aid Clinic, organised its first Legal Aid Practicum on “How to Attain Perfection in the Legal Profession.” The session featured Hon. Mr Justice J.R. Midha, former Judge, High Court of Delhi, who interacted with students on the qualities and professional attributes essential for a successful legal career.

Justice Midha emphasised communication skills, logical thinking, social skills, listening and questioning, while also reflecting on the role of emotions, intentions, intuition and instincts in legal practice. Prof. Ritu Gupta, Dean, Faculty of Legal Studies, delivered the welcome address and outlined the objectives of the programme.

South Asian University, in association with EduSkills, organised an industry interaction for students featuring Mr. Sougata Sen of Lloyds Technology Centre India. With participation from more than 100 students, the session examined how artificial intelligence is transforming workplaces and careers and the competencies required to remain relevant in an evolving professional environment. The discussion covered technical and problem-solving abilities alongside communication, adaptability and professional confidence. A mock interview session added a practical dimension, allowing students to experience real-world interview situations, understand corporate expectations and receive feedback.



Preparing Students for the Future of Work

South Asian University organised a lecture on “Decolonizing Knowledge in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Colonial Categories, South Asian Knowledge Traditions and Epistemic Representation” on 8 September 2026. The session featured Krishna Maheshwari, Founder and CEO, Institute for Civilizational Studies, and was chaired by Prof. Ramesh Chandra Gaur, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Media & Design.

The discussion examined questions of knowledge, representation and artificial intelligence, with particular attention to colonial categories, South Asian knowledge traditions and epistemic representation. The topic provided an interdisciplinary perspective on how knowledge systems are represented and negotiated in the context of emerging technologies.



Decolonizing Knowledge in the Age of Artificial Intelligence



Reimagining Legal Education and Legal Methods

The Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, organised the Dean’s Distinguished Lecture Series featuring Prof. Ranbir Singh, Founding Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, and Founding Vice-Chancellor of National Law University, Delhi. Held on 7–8 September 2026, the lecture series addressed the themes “Reimagining Legal Education” and “Legal Methods.”

The programme provided students and faculty members with an opportunity to engage with the experience and perspectives of a prominent legal academic and institutional leader. The discussions examined approaches to legal education and methods, encouraging reflection on the evolving requirements of legal learning and professional preparation.

The Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, organised a panel book discussion on “Green Power Politics and Climate Change: The Future of Environmental Politics in the Indo-Pacific” on 3 September 2026. The session was chaired by Dr. Medha Bisht, Associate Professor (SG), FIS.

The panel featured Dr. Anmol Mukhia, Assistant Professor, FIS, and Prof. Sriparna Pathak, Professor, O. P. Jindal Global University. Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi, Associate Dean, FIS, and Prof. Vijay Sakhuja, Professor, IILM, participated as discussants. The discussion examined environmental politics, green power and climate change in the Indo-Pacific, bringing together perspectives on the region’s evolving political and ecological landscape.



Green Power Politics and Climate Change in the Indo-Pacific

The Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, South Asian University, hosted an expert talk by Prof. Rakesh Pandey, Ph.D., DAAD Fellow, FNAAS, former Professor Emeritus, AcSIR, and CSIR-Emeritus Scientist, on “Biomedical and Biotechnological Innovations Using Powerful Model System *Caenorhabditis elegans*.”

The session introduced participants to the use of the microscopic roundworm *C. elegans* as a powerful model organism in biomedical and biotechnological research. Prof. Pandey discussed its significance in contemporary scientific research and demonstrated how model systems can contribute to understanding biological processes and developing new approaches in medicine and biotechnology. The interaction provided students and researchers with an opportunity to engage with an experienced scientist and gain insights into applications of model-organism research. The expert talk strengthened academic exposure within the Faculty and highlighted the role of interdisciplinary research in advancing biomedical and biotechnological understanding.



Biomedical and Biotechnological Innovations Using *C. elegans*



SAU's Faculty of Legal Studies Conducts Forty-Hour Mediation Training Programme

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-Hour Mediation Certificate Training Programme from 28 August to 1 September 2026. The five-day programme covered alternative dispute resolution, negotiation, communication, conflict management, mediation procedures and professional ethics, with practical role-play exercises. Twenty-three faculty members, PhD scholars and LL.M. students participated and received certificates. The programme concluded with a valedictory session attended by former Supreme Court Judge Justice Gyan Sudha Misra and SAU President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, among other dignitaries. The initiative strengthened practical legal education and marked the Legal Aid Clinic's achievement in conducting mediation training at the university level.



Cultural Programs

Sangeetwale – Gandhi: Celebrating Gandhi’s Legacy Through Folk Music

South Asian University presented Sangeetwale – Gandhi, a folk music programme celebrating the life, ideals and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi through India’s rich folk traditions. Presented by Purabiya through its musical ensemble, Purabiyataan, the programme featured renowned Indian folk singer Ms. Chandan Tiwari. Through evocative folk melodies and songs rooted in India’s cultural traditions, the programme brought audiences closer to Gandhi’s enduring message and the values that shaped his life and philosophy. The musical tribute explored the connection between folk expression, collective memory and Gandhi’s continuing relevance. By bringing together music and history, Sangeetwale – Gandhi offered an opportunity to revisit the legacy of the Father of the Nation through the voices and traditions of the people.



Faculty of Legal Studies Welcomes Its First Undergraduate Cohort at South Asian University

South Asian University presented Sangeetwale – Gandhi, a folk music programme celebrating the life, ideals and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi through India’s rich folk traditions. Presented by Purabiya through its musical ensemble, Purabiyataan, the programme featured renowned Indian folk singer Ms. Chandan Tiwari. Through evocative folk melodies and songs rooted in India’s cultural traditions, the programme brought audiences closer to Gandhi’s enduring message and the values that shaped his life and philosophy. The musical tribute explored the connection between folk expression, collective memory and Gandhi’s continuing relevance. By bringing together music and history, Sangeetwale – Gandhi offered an opportunity to revisit the legacy of the Father of the Nation through the voices and traditions of the people.



Presidential Connect



President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal at EduSkills HR Summit 2026

The Hon'ble President of South Asian University (SAU), Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, participated in the EduSkills HR Summit 2026, held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, where he shared the stage with the Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, Shri Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade. The summit, themed "AI for Viksit Bharat – Intelligence to Impact," brought together leaders, policymakers and industry professionals to deliberate on the role of artificial intelligence, innovation, skills and technology in shaping India's future.

Addressing members of the human resources fraternity, Prof. Aggarwal emphasised the importance of creating meaningful employment opportunities for students while preserving the essence of teaching and learning. Drawing upon India's traditional Gurukul system, he highlighted the value of close teacher-student interaction, intellectual curiosity, a willingness to learn and the practical application of knowledge. He underscored the need to move beyond conventional models of mass instruction towards more engaging and participatory approaches to education, where learning was driven by curiosity, active involvement and the ability to translate knowledge into practice.

His address reflected the importance of aligning education with emerging professional requirements without losing sight of its fundamental purpose: nurturing capable, curious and adaptable learners. The discussions at the summit also highlighted the potential of artificial intelligence to support inclusive growth, strengthen governance, foster innovation and expand employment opportunities in a technology-driven economy. During the summit, Prof. Aggarwal, accompanied by Prof. Pranab K. Muhuri, Vice-President (Administration), and Prof. S. P. Aggarwal, Officer on Special Duty to the President, interacted with SAU students selected to represent the University. Their interaction provided an opportunity to discuss the future of education, students' aspirations and the evolving priorities of higher education.

Prof. Aggarwal's participation highlighted SAU's engagement with national conversations on educational transformation, employability and technological advancement, reinforcing the importance of connecting academic learning with practical skills and the changing needs of society.



Courtesy Visit by Vijnana Bharati Representatives

Hon'ble President of South Asian University (SAU), Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, received Dr. Shivkumar Sharma, National Organizing Secretary, Vijnana Bharati, and Mr. Akash Shetty, State Organizing Secretary, Vijnana Bharati, Delhi, during their courtesy visit to the University.

The interaction provided an opportunity to discuss South Asian University's academic achievements, institutional priorities and future goals. The discussions focused on SAU's vision for advancing excellence in higher education, strengthening research capabilities and fostering innovation through academic engagement and knowledge exchange.

The meeting also explored potential avenues for collaboration between the University and Vijnana Bharati, with an emphasis on identifying areas of mutual interest that could contribute to academic development and the exchange of ideas. The interaction reflected a shared interest in promoting scientific temper, research-oriented thinking and innovation through institutional engagement.



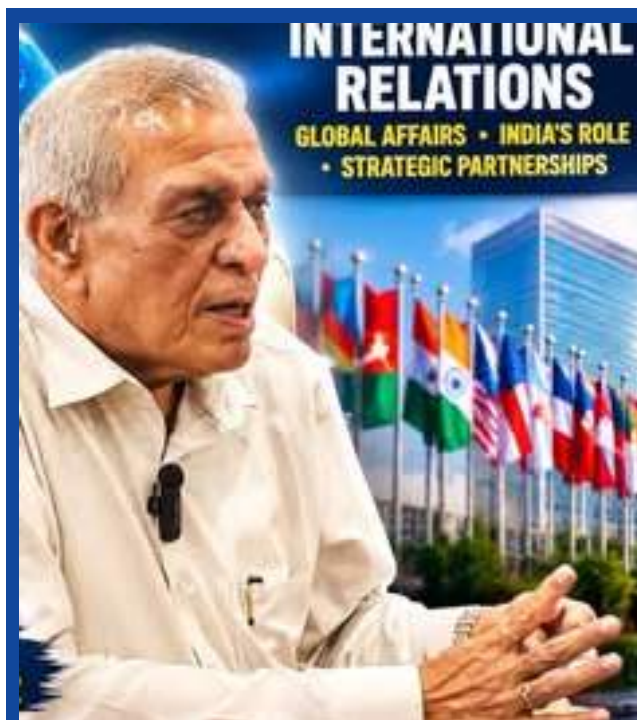
JNU Vice-Chancellor Visits South Asian University

South Asian University (SAU) hosted Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), during her visit to the campus. She interacted with the Deans and Faculty Members, engaging in discussions on the University's academic progress and institutional initiatives.

During the interaction, Prof. Pandit congratulated the Hon'ble President of SAU, Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, on the University's academic achievements within a relatively short period. She also appreciated the establishment of the Centre for Excellence in Future Studies, recognising its significance in advancing emerging areas of academic inquiry and research.

The interaction was attended by Prof. Pranab K. Muhuri, Vice-President (Administration); Prof. Kapil Sharma, Vice-President (Academic); Prof. Ritu Gaur, Vice-President (Strategy and Innovation); Prof. Deepa Sinha, Proctor; Prof. Navnit Jha, Dean of Students' Welfare; Dr. Ravindra Kumar Soni, Registrar; and the Deans and Faculty Members of SAU.

The visit provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on higher education and research, while highlighting SAU's academic development under the leadership of Prof. Aggarwal.



President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal in Conversation with Poli_charcha

The Hon'ble President of South Asian University (SAU), Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, shared his perspectives on India's global position and international relations in an insightful conversation with Poli_charcha. The discussion provided an opportunity to reflect on India's evolving role in the international arena and the broader dynamics shaping contemporary international relations.

Through the conversation, Prof. Aggarwal engaged with questions concerning India's place in the global order, its international engagement and the changing geopolitical landscape. His participation reflected SAU's engagement with contemporary issues of international significance, particularly those concerning global affairs, diplomacy and India's relations with the wider world.

As a university established by the governments of SAARC member states, SAU places particular importance on understanding regional and international developments. Prof. Aggarwal's interaction with Poli_charcha extended this engagement to a wider public audience, bringing perspectives on international relations and India's global standing into public discourse.

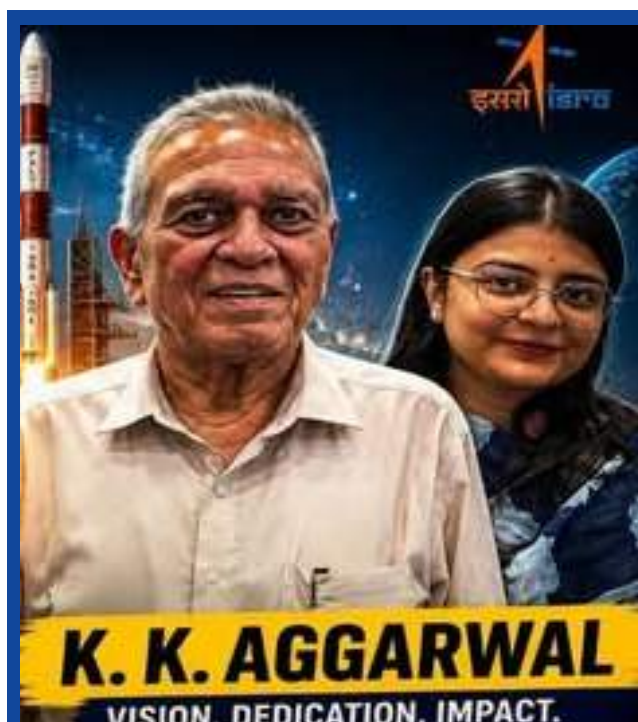


President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal on Higher Education and Gen Z Aspirations

Hon'ble SAU President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal shared his perspectives on higher education, the Common University Entrance Test (CUET), the evolving education landscape and the aspirations of Generation Z in an insightful podcast hosted by Munmun Srivastava, a senior Indian journalist, digital content creator and education expert.

The conversation explored emerging trends in higher education, the role of entrance examinations in university admissions and the changing expectations of young learners. Prof. Aggarwal discussed the need for educational institutions to understand the aspirations of Gen Z and respond to a rapidly evolving academic environment while keeping meaningful teaching and learning at the centre of education.

The interaction contributed to the wider discourse on the future of higher education in India, student aspirations and the role of universities in preparing young people for emerging opportunities and challenges.



From ISRO's PSLV to the Future of AI

Hon'ble President of South Asian University (SAU), Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, reflected on his four-decade journey in engineering, research, academia and leadership in an insightful conversation with Poli_charcha.

The discussion covered Prof. Aggarwal's work on the reliability analysis of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), highlighting the role of engineering research in advancing complex technological systems. He also shared his perspectives on emerging developments in Artificial Intelligence, engineering education and the application of AI in healthcare.

The conversation further explored leadership, the evolving role of higher education and the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of South Asia. Drawing on his extensive experience across research and academic administration, Prof. Aggarwal offered insights into the relationship between technological innovation, education and institutional development.

The interaction highlighted the importance of research-driven innovation, quality education and forward-looking leadership in addressing emerging societal and technological needs.



President Prof. K. K. Aggarwal on SAU's Global Partnerships and Regional Research

In an exclusive interview with South Asian Herald, the Hon'ble President of South Asian University (SAU), Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, shared his vision for strengthening the University's global academic partnerships, expanding regional collaborations and advancing interdisciplinary research.

The conversation highlighted SAU's distinctive regional mandate as an international university established by the governments of SAARC member states. Prof. Aggarwal discussed the University's growing engagement with academic institutions and its efforts to foster knowledge exchange, research and innovation across South Asia and beyond.

The interview also featured emerging areas of institutional focus, including climate change, sustainability, nutrition, health, law, journalism and enterprise development. These initiatives reflect the University's emphasis on addressing contemporary regional challenges through interdisciplinary approaches, academic cooperation and research-driven solutions.

Under Prof. Aggarwal's leadership, SAU continues to strengthen its role in higher education and research through international partnerships and regional engagement. .

Outreach Activities



Dr Shyamli Singh Speaks on Strategic HR Planning for Sustainability

Dr Shyamli Singh, Associate Professor at the Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability, South Asian University (SAU), was invited by the Department of Management, Invertis University, Bareilly, to deliver a talk on “Strategic HR Planning for Sustainable Development: Building a Future-Ready Workforce.” Bringing a sustainability perspective to human resource management, Dr Singh discussed the importance of green skills, climate literacy, adaptive capacity and sustainability-oriented leadership in preparing organisations for emerging challenges.



Dr Swati Chandra Delivers Distinguished Lecture on AI and Creative Writing

Dr Swati Chandra, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Media and Design, delivered a distinguished lecture titled “Who Is Afraid of the Machine: The Future of the Creative Writer in the Age of AI” at O. P. Jindal Global University. Organised by the Jindal School of Languages and Literature, the lecture examined the implications of artificial intelligence for authorship, creativity and literary expression. Drawing on perspectives from literary and media theory, Dr Chandra explored concerns surrounding machine-generated writing and the changing relationship between technology and human creativity. She emphasised the continuing importance of human experience, cultural memory, ethical judgement and social engagement, highlighting the evolving role of writers as critics, curators and interpreters of human experience in an AI-mediated world.



Dr Anmol Mukhia Discusses India–GCC Cooperation in Green Energy

Dr Anmol Mukhia, Faculty of International Studies, South Asian University, was invited to speak at the webinar titled “Global High Tea Series – India-GCC Cooperation in Green Hydrogen and Renewable Energy”, organised by the Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Kochi, on 25 September 2026. The webinar provided a platform to discuss cooperation between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in emerging energy sectors. Dr Mukhia’s participation reflected SAU faculty engagement with contemporary international policy debates concerning energy transition, renewable energy and green hydrogen. The interaction also highlighted the importance of regional partnerships and policy dialogue in addressing sustainability challenges and exploring opportunities for cooperation in the evolving global energy landscape.



Dr Piyashi Dutta Addresses AI Ethics and Democratic Values

Dr Piyashi Dutta, Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts, Media and Design, South Asian University, delivered an invited lecture on “AI Ethics & Democratic Values” at the Course on AI Governance and Election Management, organised by the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), Election Commission of India, on 25 September 2026. The programme brought together electoral practitioners from 14 Election Management Bodies, providing a platform for international professional exchange. Dr Dutta discussed artificial intelligence in electoral institutions, focusing on privacy, human rights, algorithmic bias, inclusion, representation, accountability and human oversight.



Dr Stellina Jolly Selected for Chevening Gurukul Fellowship at Oxford

Dr Stellina Jolly, Senior Associate Professor, Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, was selected for the prestigious Chevening Gurukul Fellowship for Leadership and Excellence, a flagship 12-week residential programme for mid-career Indian professionals. Offered by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and hosted at the University of Oxford from 25 September to 26 November 2026, the fellowship brought together 12 professionals from diverse fields. The programme focused on leadership, public policy and contemporary global challenges, providing opportunities for interdisciplinary engagement and professional exchange.



Dr Shyamli Singh Contributes to Dialogue on Circular Economy and Waste Management

Dr Shyamli Singh, Associate Professor at the Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability, South Asian University, participated as an expert in a brainstorming session on “Solid Waste Management and Circular Economy”, organised by USAR, GGSIPU, as the Lead Knowledge Institute for Viksit Delhi @2047, in association with NITI Aayog. Speaking on “Circular Economy and Climate-Resilient Urban Waste Management: From Waste Disposal to Resource Recovery”, she discussed resource recovery, circularity, legacy landfills, climate resilience and inclusive waste governance. Dr Singh emphasised the need to view urban waste as a resource and an opportunity for climate action and improved governance.



Dr Medha Bisht Examines India's Act East Policy Through Ecological Security

Dr Medha Bisht, Associate Professor (SG), Department of International Relations, South Asian University, delivered a hybrid lecture at the College of Defence Management, Secunderabad, titled "Revisiting India's Act East Policy: The Missing Narrative from Lens of (Ecological) Security". The lecture examined India's Act East Policy through the perspective of ecological security, bringing environmental concerns into discussions of regional relations and strategic policy. Dr Bisht's engagement provided an opportunity to explore the intersections between international relations, environmental challenges and security considerations.



Professor Pooran Chandra Pandey Discusses the Contemporary Relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement

Professor Pooran Chandra Pandey participated in a live bilingual discussion hosted by EuroNews, Serbia, on the history and contemporary relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The conversation examined NAM's role in the changing international order, particularly in the context of major powers such as China, the United States and Russia. It also explored whether the movement had contributed to reducing global tensions and how effectively it had adapted to the realities of the twenty-first century. Professor Pandey's participation brought an academic perspective to an international media discussion on global power dynamics, multilateral engagement and the continuing relevance of historical diplomatic frameworks in understanding contemporary international relations.



SAU Bookshelf

Twin Support Vector Machines: Models, Extensions and Applications

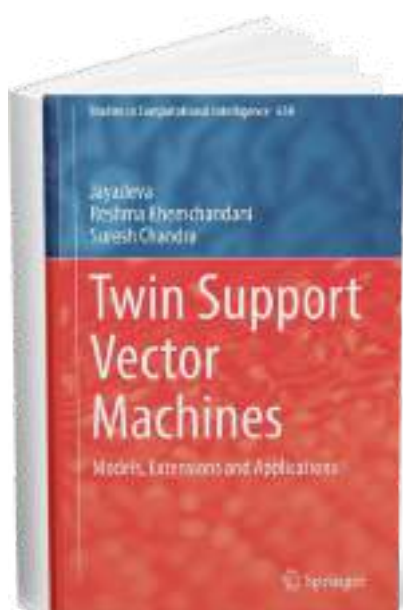
This month, South Asian University highlights *Twin Support Vector Machines: Models, Extensions and Applications*, co-authored by Jayadeva, Reshma (nee Khemchandani) Rastogi, and Prof. Suresh Chandra. Published by Springer as part of its *Studies in Computational Intelligence* series, the book presents a systematic examination of Twin Support Vector Machines (TWSVM), a machine-learning methodology developed for classification and regression. It explores the theoretical foundations of TWSVM, its principal models and extensions, and its applications across different computational problems.

Dr. Reshma (nee Khemchandani) Rastogi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at South Asian University, New Delhi, and holds a PhD in machine learning from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, awarded in 2008. Her research interests include machine learning, optimisation, image processing and financial modelling, with particular contributions to the development of Twin Support Vector Machines and related learning methods.

Dr. Rastogi has published extensively in refereed international journals and conference proceedings. Her research on TWSVM has received substantial scholarly attention and has been cited in subsequent studies and review articles. In addition to *Twin Support Vector Machines: Models, Extensions and Applications*, she has co-authored *Financial Mathematics: An Introduction*. Through her research in machine learning and statistical inference, she contributes to the development of computational methods for classification, regression and other data-driven applications.

The book covers Generalized Eigenvalue Proximal Support Vector Machines, TWSVM for classification, Twin Support Vector Regression (TWSVR), and alternative formulations of twin support vector models. It also examines applications in unsupervised and semi-supervised learning, along with additional topics such as kernel optimisation and support tensor machines. By bringing together the fundamental models, methodological developments and application areas, the book provides a structured reference for understanding the evolution and wider applicability of this approach to machine learning.

Designed primarily for graduate students and researchers, the book connects mathematical formulations with practical computational challenges. Its treatment of classification, regression and related learning methods offers a foundation for further study and research in machine learning, computer science, mathematics, electrical engineering, management science and finance.



Dr. Reshma (nee Khemchandani) Rastogi, Associate Dean,
Department of Computer Science and Engineering,
South Asian University

Did You Know?

September in South Asia: Unity in Diversity

September brings together the diverse cultural, religious and national observances of South Asia, reflecting the region's rich traditions, shared values and distinct identities. The theme Unity in Diversity highlights how the eight SAARC countries, despite their differences, remain connected through shared heritage, cultural exchanges and common aspirations.



Afghanistan — Hafta-e-Shaheed is observed in memory of Ahmad Shah Massoud



Maldives – The Day Maldives Embraced Islam is observed on 13 September 2026, commemorating the country's adoption of Islam.



Bangladesh – Janmashtami was observed marking the birth of Lord Krishna with prayers, processions and cultural programmes across the country.



Nepal – Constitution Day, observed on 19 September, commemorates the promulgation of Nepal's Constitution in 2015



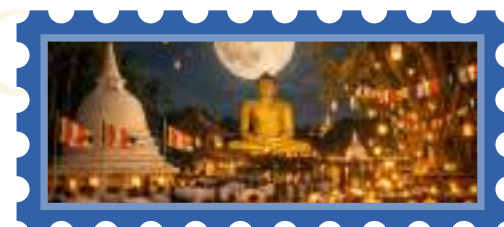
Bhutan – Thimphu Tshechu, features sacred masked dances, traditional costumes and religious performances at Tashichho Dzong.



Pakistan – Defence and Martyrs Day is observed on 6 September, honouring those who served and sacrificed their lives in the country's defence.



India –Ganesh Chaturthi was observed through worship, community gatherings and cultural festivities.



Sri Lanka – Binara Full Moon Poya Day falls on 26 September 2026. It commemorates the establishment of the Buddhist Bhikkhuni Order, marking an important milestone in Buddhist history.

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): འཇུན་སྒྲིལ་ (Thündril)
-  India (Hindi): एकता (Ekta)
-  Maldives (Dhivehi): ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ޖުމްހޫރިއްޔާ (Ekuverikan)
-  Nepal (Nepali): एकता (Ekata)
-  Pakistan (Urdu): اتحاد (Ittihad)
-  Sri Lanka (Sinhala): එකමුතුකම (Ekamuthukama)

Upcoming Events

October
5-6
2026

Pravaah - 2026

October
7
2026

The Faculty of Life Sciences & Biotechnology (FLSB) at South Asian University will host an insightful seminar and public lecture titled "Brain Health and its Importance in India's Economic and Social Development."

October
8-9
2026

The Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, will present the Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series featuring Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohan Pieris, Honorary Professor, Faculty of Legal Studies, Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations.

October
9
2026

South Asian University will host a Book Launch & Discussion on *The Room Above the Gutter* by Dr. Swati Chandra, published by Om Books International.

October
9
2026

Launch of the SAARC-SAU Regional and Transdisciplinary Centre for Precision Nutrition and Health.

October
15
2026

Kaarya 2026, on the theme "Work Without Boundaries: Wellbeing, Trust and the Workplace After Hybrid"

October
23
2026

Special lecture on "Integrated ESG Reporting and Evolving Corporate Commitment" by Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, organised by SAU's Interdisciplinary Centre of Excellence on Climate Change, Green Transition and Sustainability



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