Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on the SDGs: Conferences with Government, Industry and Civil Society

1. Purpose

In 2025 SRM University-AP hosted four conferences and a faculty development programme, and took part in a meeting of university vice-chancellors, that brought together government bodies, industry, public-sector institutions, other universities and professional societies, in the University's own APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium and classrooms.

Event	Dates (2025)	Cross-sector partners	SDGs
Green Hydrogen Summit 2025	18–19 July	NREDCAP (Government of Andhra Pradesh), Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh as Chief Guest, Greenko, AM Green, KPI Green Hydrogen, ACME, Synergen, Yamna, BPCL, NTPC, IIT Tirupati	SDG 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17
Water Elixir Meet (WE Meet 2025)	27 Feb – 1 Mar	Government agencies, NGOs, industry and international institutions: NUS Singapore, National Taipei University of Technology, IGES Japan	SDG 6, 17
50th All India Sociological Conference	28–30 Dec	Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi; scholars from JNU, HCU, DU and IITs; policy practitioners	SDG 1, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17
Faculty Development Programme: Embedding SDGs in Higher Education Curricula	18–22 Aug	Faculty from SRM AP and other institutions; speakers from IIT Kharagpur, NITTTR Chandigarh, CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, VEDIC and iEduVibhu	All 17 SDGs (SDG 4, 17)
AIU East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet 2024-25	18–19 Mar	Association of Indian Universities; JIS University, Kolkata; university leaders of the East Zone	SDG 4, 7, 10, 17
Systems Engineering Summit 2025	23–24 Jan	Efftronics, INCOSE, IEEE Systems Council, IRISET (Indian Railways), RCI (DRDO), industry and university leaders	SDG 17 (partnerships)

2. Green Hydrogen Summit 2025

The Green Hydrogen Summit was held on 18–19 July 2025 at the APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium, organised by the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering. The Chief Guest was **Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh**. The partners were NREDCAP (Government of Andhra Pradesh), Greenko, AM Green, KPI Green Hydrogen, ACME, Synergen, Yamna, BPCL, NTPC and IIT Tirupati. It was a two-day event with 204 external attendees, 60 PhD scholars, 87 faculty, 42 UG and 15 PG students, and 10 staff.

Objective. To bring government, industry and academia together on India's National Hydrogen Mission: research and development, innovation and commercialisation; production, storage and applications; partnerships and investment; and the policy framework and incentives that support hydrogen projects. One conclave discussed the policies needed to support green hydrogen projects, including investment opportunities, incentives and financing.

Outcome. The summit led to the **AP State Green Hydrogen Valley Declaration**. SRM University-AP was recognised as the nodal agency for green hydrogen projects in Andhra Pradesh, and the Government of Andhra Pradesh formed an Advisory Council to carry out projects related to clean energy.



Figure 1. Green Hydrogen Summit 2025, inauguration with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh as Chief Guest (18 July 2025).



Figure 2. Green Hydrogen Summit 2025, conclave on policies needed to support green hydrogen projects: investment opportunities, incentives and financing (19 July 2025).

3. Water Elixir Meet (WE Meet 2025)

The first Water Elixir Meet, an international conference, was held on 27 February to 1 March 2025 at SRM University-AP, hosted by the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering. It was held in association with National Taipei University of Technology, Taiwan, and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan. The event flyer carries the logos of NABARD and SERB (ANRF). The chief guest and keynote speaker was Prof. Rajasekhar Balasubramanian of the National University of Singapore, who is a Lead Author for the UN Environment Programme's 6th Global Environment Outlook and a member of the Science Panel of the Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership. Three foreign delegates (Italy, Taiwan and Singapore) and six national experts gave keynote and invited talks.

Objective. The conference brought together scientists, researchers, engineers and policymakers to address water scarcity, pollution, climate change impacts and policy, in support of the SDGs. Its stated objectives included fostering collaborations and partnerships among academia, industry, government agencies and non-governmental organisations, and developing actionable strategies for sustainable water use at local, regional and global scales.



Figure 3. Water Elixir Meet (WE Meet) 2025, Flyer



Figure 4. Water Elixir Meet (WE Meet) 2025

Outcome. The meet led to strategic partnerships between academic institutions, industries and policy bodies on microplastic pollution, PFAS contamination, saltwater

intrusion and circular water economies. A compendium of research abstracts and a policy brief with key recommendations were published. Follow-up actions include a larger WE Meet 2.0 with an international exhibition, thematic workshops, and masterclasses and training for students, professionals and community stakeholders.

4. Faculty Development Programme: Embedding SDGs in Higher Education Curricula

SRM University-AP's SDG Cell, Office of the Dean – QAR, organised a five-day online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Embedding SDGs in Higher Education Curricula" from 18 to 22 August 2025 (3:00–4:30 PM IST each day, with an assessment on the final day) on Zoom. The programme was open to faculty from SRM AP and other institutions, research scholars, curriculum developers and administrators, and was coordinated by Dr Prateek Gupta.

Each day was led by an expert from a different institution or organisation, bringing academic, policy and industry perspectives on sustainability education into the University's faculty community. Daily attendance was 154, 135, 128, 131 and 162 participants on Days 1 to 5 respectively. Participants who attended at least 80% of the sessions and completed the assessment received certificates. The speakers and topics are listed below.

Date	Topic	Speaker	Affiliation
18 Aug	Integrating SDGs into Higher Education	Prof. Suresh Kumar	Founder and CEO, iEduVibhu, Bengaluru
19 Aug	Curriculum, OBE and pedagogy towards SDG	Prof. Sivakumar Krishnan	Director of Learning and Innovation, VEDIC, Hyderabad
20 Aug	Circular Economy and SDGs in curriculum	Prof. Brajesh Kumar Dubey	Professor of Civil Engineering, IIT Kharagpur
21 Aug	Case-based pedagogy for SDG integration	Prof. Sapna Arora Narula	Professor and Director, CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur
22 Aug	Measuring SDG impact in education	Er. Amardev Singh	Assistant Professor, NITTTR Chandigarh

Objective. To sensitise faculty to the Sustainable Development Goals; embed SDG and circular-economy concepts in curricula; build capacity in outcome-based education (OBE) and sustainable pedagogy; discuss institutional implementation through projects, research and collaborations; and encourage cooperation among universities, NGOs, government bodies and industry for local and global SDG solutions.

Outcome. Participants gained an understanding of all 17 SDGs, were introduced to circular-economy ideas (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, redesign), and learned to map SDGs to course outcomes and to design student mini-projects on local issues. The sessions also covered sustainability research, international partnerships and funding under SDG 17, and experiential and project-based learning. Recommended follow-up actions include mapping courses and programme outcomes to SDGs, introducing new electives and minors, running regular training workshops, assigning mini-projects and living-lab activities, partnering with local communities, NGOs and industries, and establishing KPIs with periodic reviews.

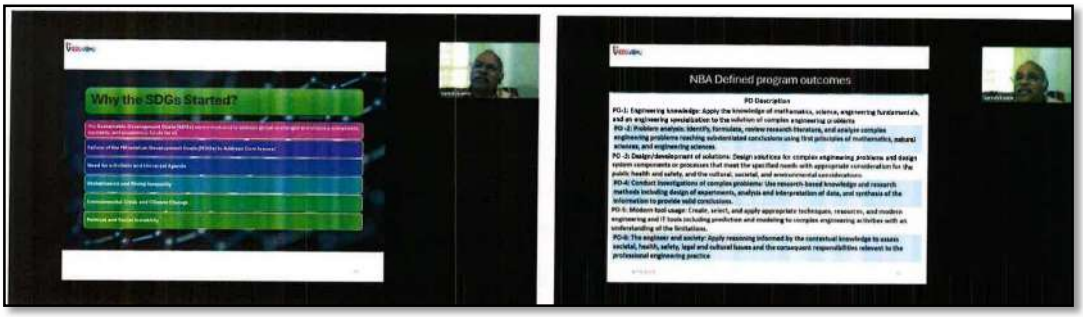


Figure 5. Day 1: Integrating SDGs into Higher Education (Prof. Suresh Kumar)



Figure 6. Day 3: Circular Economy and SDGs in curriculum (Prof. Brajesh Kumar Dubey)



Figure 7. Day 5: Measuring SDG impact in education (Er. Amardev Singh)

5. AIU East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet 2024-25

SRM University-AP took part in the East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet 2024-25 of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), held on 18–19 March 2025 at JIS University,

Kolkata. The two-day conference brought together the heads of universities in the eastern region, and SRM University-AP was represented by Dr Prateek Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences. The meet addressed equity, diversity and sustainability in higher education, with the University taking part as a member of the national body of universities.

The sessions covered integrating Indian Knowledge Systems into curricula and bridging traditional wisdom with modern science; equity and diversity, including scholarships, mentorship and support for under-represented students; and sustainability, with a focus on green campuses and renewable energy. The meet also stressed skill-based education and industry collaboration to improve employability, and encouraged technology-driven learning, including AI and hybrid models. The University also set up a stall at the venue showcasing its sustainability initiatives and diversity profile. The event is tagged to SDG 4, 7, 10 and 17.

Objective. To take part in a sector-wide dialogue among university leaders on equity, diversity and sustainability in higher education, and to share and learn practices on green campuses, renewable energy and inclusive access that support the SDGs.

Outcome. The University engaged with university leaders from the region on sustainability and inclusion in higher education. The discussion on green campuses and renewable energy and on support for under-represented students informs the University's continuing work on SDGs 4, 7 and 10, and the participation adds a higher-education-sector dimension to the University's cross-sectoral dialogue on the SDGs.



Figure 8. Participation of SRM University-AP at the AIU East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet, Kolkata (18 March 2025).



Figure 9. Session in progress at the AIU East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet 2024-25, Kolkata.



Figure 10. SRM University-AP exhibition stall at the AIU East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet, Kolkata.

6. 50th All India Sociological Conference

The 50th All India Sociological Conference (AISC) was held on 28–30 December 2025, hosted by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Easwari School of Liberal Arts, with the **Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi** as the associated body. The theme was "Mobilities and Inequalities: Shifting Contexts; Changing Paradigms". Sessions ran in the APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium and 40 classrooms for research committee sessions. Attendance was 1,283 external attendees, 728 PhD scholars, 670 faculty, 140 UG and 100 PG students, and 30 staff. Speakers came from JNU, HCU,

DU, the IITs and other reputed universities. The event was tagged to SDG 1, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17.

Objective. To examine how mobilities and social inequalities are related, and how caste, class, gender, tribe, religion and region shape access to mobility and resources. The conference also looked at migration, labour mobility, digital mobilities and environmental displacement, and at mobility justice, development and social transformation in the context of globalisation, technology and climate change.

Outcome. The conference was designed to promote dialogue between academia and policy practitioners, and to contribute to inclusive and sustainable approaches to inequalities shaped by caste, class, gender, tribe, region and technology.



Figure 11. Inauguration of the 50th All India Sociological Conference, APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium (28 December 2025).



Figure 12. Delegates attending the 50th All India Sociological Conference (28 December 2025).

7. Systems Engineering Summit 2025

The Systems Engineering Summit was held on 23–24 January 2025 at the APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium, organised by the Departments of Electronics and Communications Engineering and Electrical and Electronics Engineering together with Efftronics Systems Pvt. Ltd. Its theme was "Systems Engineering: The Guaranteed Path to a Better World". Speakers and panellists came from Boeing, Eaton, Wabtec, Philips, Ansys, John Deere India, Bajaj Auto, **IRISET** (Indian Railways institute under the Ministry of Railways, whose Director General spoke on Kavach, India's automatic train protection system), **RCI, DRDO**, BlueKei Solutions, INCOSE India Chapter, the IEEE Systems Council and Mahindra University. The inauguration included the Vice-Chancellors of VIT-AP, Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education and Acharya Nagarjuna University, the Registrar of Vignan's Foundation, and the President of the IT Association of Andhra Pradesh.

Outcome. Memorandums of Understanding were signed between SRM University-AP, Efftronics, INCOSE and other industry and academic entities. Recommended actions were a proposal for a Centre of Excellence on Functional Safety and an MoU with the Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications, Secunderabad (under the Ministry of Railways), which is in progress.



Figure 13. Systems Engineering Summit 2025, 23–24 January 2025, APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium.



Figure 14. Industry and academic leaders at the Systems Engineering Summit 2025.

8. Conclusion

Through these four conferences, the faculty development programme and its participation in the AIU East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet in 2025, SRM University-AP initiated and hosted dialogue that crossed sectors. It worked with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and public-sector companies on green hydrogen, with government agencies, NGOs and international bodies on water security, with the Indian Sociological Society and policy practitioners on inequality and mobility, with industry and railway and defence institutions on systems engineering, with academic experts from across India on embedding the SDGs in curricula, and with university leaders of the East Zone on equity, diversity and sustainability in higher education. The summits and conferences led to concrete outcomes, including the AP State Green Hydrogen Valley Declaration, the University's recognition as nodal agency for green hydrogen projects in the State, an Advisory Council formed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, a policy brief on water, and new MoUs.