SDG 16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development Goal 16 calls on institutions everywhere to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies — societies grounded in accountable governance, equal access to justice, respect for human rights, and the rule of law. For a university, this translates into a very concrete mandate: shaping graduates who understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens, who can recognise and resist injustice, and who carry an ethic of fairness, safety and civic participation into every institution they go on to serve.

At SRM University–AP, this mandate is visible across three connected strands of institutional life. The university runs a sustained calendar of campus programmes on ethics, safety and civic values — from anti-ragging and anti-harassment awareness to constitutional and democratic literacy — that reach thousands of students and staff every year. Its faculty and students carry this commitment beyond the campus gates through outreach that supports vulnerable children, rehabilitation-centre communities and government-school students with drug-awareness, personal-safety and life-skills programmes. And its research community is producing a substantial and internationally engaged body of scholarship on governance, democracy, human rights and institutional accountability — scholarship that is itself a form of contribution to SDG 16's knowledge base.

The pages that follow bring these three strands together — campus initiatives, community outreach, and research and publications — to present a single, evidence-based account of how SRM University–AP is contributing to peace, justice and strong institutions, drawn strictly from the university's own verified activity, event and publication records for 2025–26.

PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS — CAMPUS INITIATIVES

Across the academic year, SRM University–AP's Directorate of Student Affairs, NCC, NSS and academic departments ran a dense calendar of campus-based initiatives that speak directly to SDG 16's emphasis on safety, ethics, equality and democratic participation. Reconciling the university's event records — merged across departmental, Student-Affairs and intranet logs and de-duplicated so that the same activity is not counted twice — these initiatives cluster around four themes that anchor the university's SDG 16 contribution.

45	3,536	3,556	33
SDG 16-aligned campus events recorded in 2025–26	*students & staff reached by the POSH awareness programme*	*participants in the gender-sensitivity session*	*SDG 16-linked Scopus publications*

Student Safety & Responsible Behaviour

Safety and the prevention of harassment anchor the university's institutional response to SDG 16. Anti-Ragging Week and a dedicated Anti-Ragging Awareness and Enforcement Meeting — attended by the Pro Vice-Chancellor, the Associate Director of Student Affairs, wardens, counsellors and security personnel — set expectations for student conduct at the start of the year. These were followed by a university-wide POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) awareness and sensitisation programme and a companion session on gender sensitivity, both aimed at building a safer, more respectful campus, and, in partnership with the Directorate of Student Affairs, a Good-Touch/Bad-Touch personal-safety programme for younger children in nearby government schools (detailed under Outreach).

Legal Awareness & Democratic Values

A recurring strand of programming builds students' understanding of the Constitution, law and democratic institutions: Constitution Day observances, a Republic Day celebration, and a public Book Discussion on "Constitution of India: 75 Years of World's Largest Democracy" with historian Prof. V. Krishna Ananth. These were complemented by faculty-led lectures examining the health of Indian democracy in practice — including a guest lecture on the fragmentation of parliamentary opposition and a lecture theorising world politics for an international-relations audience — giving students both the ceremonial and the analytical dimensions of civic life.

Ethics, Integrity & Civic Participation

National Youth Day, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), a NEP-linked street-play ("Nukkad Natak") on ethics, and state-formation-day observances for Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya reinforced civic identity and national integration as part of everyday campus life, run largely through the Directorate of Student Affairs and NCC.

Institutional & Community Awareness

The university also used its own institutional processes as a teaching moment for accountability: a comprehensive stakeholder survey (the "Zykrr" exercise), presented to the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Deans, Directors and student representatives, was explicitly framed around transparency and actionable institutional improvement. A Cyber Crime Awareness Programme, run jointly by NSS and the Directorate of Student Affairs, extended this institutional-safety focus into the digital domain.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Beyond the campus, SRM University–AP's students and staff carried SDG 16's commitments to justice, safety and inclusion into schools, an NGO-run children's home and a drug-rehabilitation centre in and around Vijayawada, Amaravati and Mangalagiri — reaching orphaned and underprivileged children, government-school students and individuals in recovery.

- **Skill Empowerment and Drug Awareness Initiative**

Six MBA students from the Paari School of Business (Group 17 – "Awaken", VAC 507 Samaj Seva, guided by faculty coordinators Dr. Nagalakshmi M V N and Dr. Puviarasu M) ran a seven-week community-service programme — 1 February to 29 March 2026 — in partnership with the Nava Jeevan Bala Bhavan Society, a Vijayawada NGO that shelters and rehabilitates orphaned children and operates a de-addiction and recovery centre.



Purpose & Reach

Digital-literacy, financial-literacy, leadership and career-guidance sessions were delivered to roughly 30 orphaned children at the NGO's Mangalagiri facility over the first two weeks, building practical skills the children had had little earlier exposure to.

Rehabilitation-Centre Engagement

The team then conducted an empathetic, non-judgemental drug-awareness session directly at the NGO's rehabilitation centre in Vijayawada, engaging both staff and individuals in recovery in open discussion about the physical, mental and social effects of addiction.





Building School Partnerships

Formal permission visits to Universal School (Undavalli), ZPH School (Mangalagiri) and Ravindra Bharathi School (Tadepalli) secured access to run age-appropriate drug-awareness sessions for classes 6–10, with all three schools issuing letters of appreciation for the initiative.

Interactive Awareness & Pledge

At Universal School, sessions combining "Myth vs Fact" activities, group discussion and a skit culminated in the "Promise Tree" pledge activity, in which students committed in writing to a drug-free life — an exercise the school and NGO both cited as encouraging genuine personal accountability.



Across the seven weeks, the team's own impact assessment records more than 100 individuals reached across orphanage, school and rehabilitation-centre settings, with a fully itemised expenditure statement (total ₹12,732, covering travel, refreshments and activity materials) and signed letters of appreciation from Universal School, ZPH School and the Nava Jeevan Bala Bhavan Society. Beyond immediate awareness, the students themselves reported developing communication, empathy and stakeholder-negotiation skills — the kind of grounded civic competence SDG 16 depends on.

● Good Touch and Bad Touch – Child Safety Awareness Programme

Personal Safety for Younger Children

Run by the Directorate of Student Affairs at MPPS (government primary) school, this programme was delivered by Alekhya Sankara, a trained psychologist and university counsellor, to primary-school children in classes 1–5. Through storytelling and age-appropriate, interactive discussion, the session taught children to recognise appropriate and inappropriate touch, to say "no" confidently, and to report unsafe situations to a trusted adult.

Around 150 students from classes 1 to 5 took part, alongside four faculty members, and the session received a strongly positive response from both students and teachers — helping build the foundations of personal safety and self-respect that SDG 16's protection agenda depends on from the earliest possible age.



EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Reconciling SRM University–AP's full SDG 16 events record — faculty-led academic events, Directorate-of-Student-Affairs programmes, and NCC/NSS activities alike — into a single, de-duplicated list yields 45 distinct SDG 16-aligned events held across the year. The strongest and best-documented of these, spanning justice, democracy, human rights and institutional awareness, are presented below with their original event photography; further verified events are summarised beneath.

● Chaityabhumi: Film Screening and Discussion

24 September 2025 • Department of Media Studies & Department of Sociology and Anthropology • Theatre, SR Block

A screening of documentary filmmaker Somnath Waghmare's Chaityabhumi, followed by a director's discussion, created an academically rigorous space for students and faculty to examine caste, social justice, memory and political assertion in contemporary India. The conversation connected classroom theory to lived Ambedkarite history, strengthening the university's commitment to inclusive academic discourse on marginalised narratives and the politics of representation.



● Book Discussion: "Constitution of India — 75 Years of World's Largest Democracy"

26 November 2025 • Department of History, ESLA • 109 attendees

Historian Prof. V. Krishna Ananth (Sikkim University) and journalist Mr. Saurav Das discussed India's constitutional journey at its 76-year milestone, deepening student and faculty engagement with debates on constitutionalism, democracy and institutional accountability, and contributing to public understanding of the Constitution as a living democratic document.





● Guest Lecture: Fragmentation and Crisis of Opposition — (Un)Making of Parliamentary Opposition in India

25 March 2026 • Department of Political Science, ESLA • Speaker: Dr. Rupak Kumar, VIT Vellore

Drawing on political memoirs, newspapers and parliamentary records, this lecture traced the historical decline of an effective parliamentary opposition in India, arguing that opposition is essential not for symbolic resistance but for holding the executive accountable. The talk directly engaged SDG 16's concern with transparent, accountable democratic institutions and the erosion of dissent.

● 50th All India Sociological Conference (AISC) 2025

28–30 December 2025 • Department of Sociology and Anthropology, ESLA, with the Indian Sociological Society • 1,283 external delegates

SRM University–AP hosted the golden-jubilee national conference of the Indian Sociological Society on the theme "Mobilities and Inequalities: Shifting Contexts, Changing Paradigms", bringing scholars nationwide to examine how caste, class, gender, tribe and region shape unequal access to mobility and resources — directly advancing SDG 16's research agenda on inequality, justice and inclusive institutions.





● Workshop: Rendering the Invisible — Researching Marginality in the Social Sciences

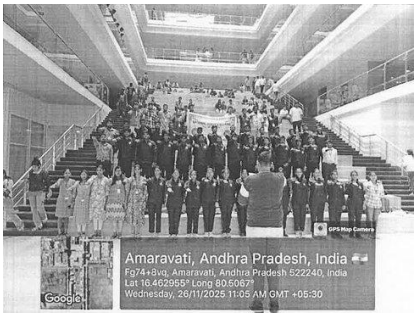
30 March – 1 April 2026 • Department of Sociology and Anthropology, ESLA • 161 participants

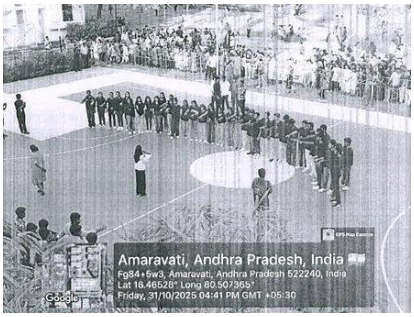
Six invited scholars led a three-day methodology workshop on researching marginality with care and accountability, covering intersectionality, power and "cultures of knowing", and methods such as sensory ethnography — equipping researchers to study inequalities of caste, class, gender and location more reflexively and responsibly.

● Constitution Day & Republic Day Observances

26 November 2025 and 26 January 2026 • Directorate of Student Affairs • 60 and 328 participants respectively

Annual observances of Constitution Day and Republic Day brought students and staff together to mark India's constitutional and democratic foundations, reinforcing civic identity and democratic values as part of everyday campus life.









● NCC Combined Outreach Programme, Nambur Village

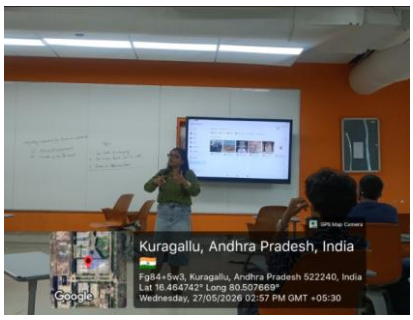
2 May 2026 • National Cadet Corps • 53 cadets

NCC cadets carried out a combined community-outreach programme at Nambur Village, extending the university's civic and social-service engagement — a Social Service and Community Development activity — into a rural setting beyond the campus.

● Summer School: Reading the Past, Rethinking the Present

26–28 May 2026 • Department of History, ESLA • 66 participants

A history summer-school introduced school students to heritage walks, source analysis and policy-simulation exercises, building critical, evidence-based thinking about how historical knowledge informs public policy and contemporary civic debate.



Further verified SDG 16 events (2025–26)

• Anti-Ragging Week and Anti-Ragging Awareness & Enforcement Meeting — Directorate of Student Affairs

• POSH — Creating a Safe, Inclusive and Respectful Campus for All (3,536 participants, online)

• "Respecting Differences, Embracing Equality" — Session on Gender Sensitivity (3,556 participants)

• NCC Inauguration; NCC Cadets Rank Promotion; Simulator Firing Practice; Firing Practice & Selections (IDSSC/TSC)

• Independence Day and Republic Day cultural observances; Assam, Manipur & Meghalaya State Formation Day celebrations

• National Youth Day and NEP "Nukkad Natak" street-play on ethics — Directorate of Student Affairs

• Cyber Crime Awareness Programme — jointly organised by NSS and the Directorate of Student Affairs

• Student Council Core Team Valedictory — formal recognition of student civic leadership (1,180 attendees)

• Zykrr institutional stakeholder-survey presentation to university leadership on transparency and improvement

• Lecture: "Making Sense of the World: Theorising World Politics" — Prof. Siddharth Mallavarapu, Dept. of Political Science

• Workshop: "Numbers to Narrative: Telling Stories with Data" — data and investigative-journalism ethics, Media Studies

• Workshop: Storytelling as Research Methodology for Humanities & Social Sciences — inclusive, marginalised-voice-centred pedagogy

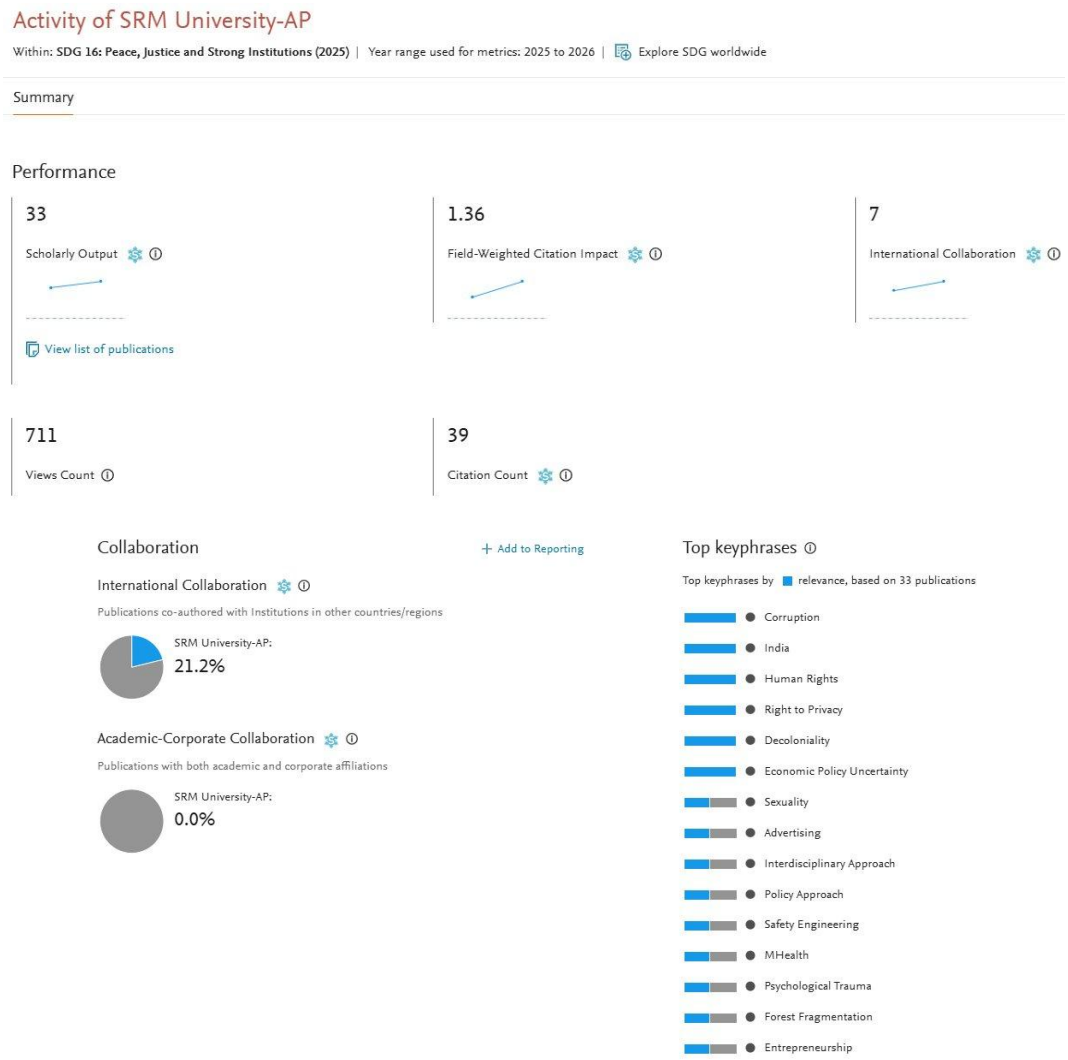
• Publishing-ethics workshops: Open Access Publishing; Navigating Changes in the Publication Landscape (Wiley) — research integrity

• Co-teaching sessions on digital forensics and cybersecurity ethics (CYS 507 / CSE 461) — institutional and legal awareness of cybercrime

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

SRM University–AP's research output under SDG 16 forms a substantial and internationally engaged intellectual pillar of the university's contribution to peace, justice and strong institutions. Scopus-indexed analytics (SciVal, data current to September 2026) record 33 scholarly outputs mapped to SDG 16 for 2025–2026, with a Field-Weighted Citation Impact of 1.36 — meaning these outputs are, on average, cited 36% above the world average for their fields — and international co-authorship spanning 7 collaborating countries.

33	1.36	7	711
SDG 16 scholarly outputs (2025–26)	*Field-Weighted Citation Impact*	*countries in international collaboration*	*views • 39 citations*



The keyphrase analysis above — led by terms such as Corruption, Human Rights, Right to Privacy and Decoloniality — reflects a genuinely justice-and-institutions-centred research base rather than a loosely-tagged one. Read alongside the full publication list, this scholarship clusters into four thematic strands, each contributing distinctly to SDG 16's targets on institutions, justice, human rights and peaceful societies.

A cluster of publications examines the functioning and accountability of institutions directly: "Institutional corruption: Some issues" (Patibandla) interrogates the drivers and consequences of institutional corruption, while "Institutional governance and energy security: Unveiling the drivers of global value chain participation in Asian economies" (Ali, Saini & Dash) and "Governance, Entrepreneurship, and the Path to Sustainable Development in BRICS Economies" and its companion "Threads of Freedom, Codes of Innovation: Governance's Loom in the G20's Sustainability Tapestry" (Navin, Ayyagari, Rajan et al.) examine how governance quality shapes sustainable economic participation across major economic blocs.

SRM University–AP's political-science and gender-studies researchers have produced a coherent body of work on Indian democratic institutions: "The Intersection of Culture and Politics: Understanding Women's Underrepresentation in Indian Democracy" and "Role of Nominated Members of Rajya Sabha in Indian Legislative Processes" (both Thomas et al.) examine structural barriers and mechanisms of representation, while "Indian General Elections 2024" and "Climate commitments and democratic contradictions: India's Panchamrit policy in comparative South Asian perspective" extend this institutional lens to electoral politics and the democratic accountability of climate policy.

The largest and most distinctive cluster addresses human rights and justice directly. "Advocacy and movement building for health rights and services for LGBTIQ communities" documents lessons from EQUAL GROUND, Sri Lanka; "Interlinkages Between Intimate Partner Violence and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes among Indian Women" and "Trauma reflections: an interpretive phenomenological analysis of pellet-gun victims' experiences in Kashmir" examine the human cost of violence; and "Healthcare Services Utilizing State-of-the-Art Image Analysis: A Dilemma Regarding the Right to Privacy" and "SAFE AI: Designing a Gender-Responsive and Child-Safe AI Framework" bring institutional and rights-based scrutiny to emerging technology. A distinctive strand of decolonial media scholarship — "Drawing (in) the margins: decolonising human rights and political frames in Indian comics on indigeneity", "Fractured identities and wounded memories in Indian comics on partition", and "Traversing through transmedia... gender-based violence in Ram Devineni's Priya series" — examines how popular visual culture represents rights, identity and violence.

A further strand addresses the safety and integrity of institutions and digital systems: "Enhancing sarcasm detection in sentiment analysis for cyberspace safety" and "FeSATLock: An Energy Efficient and SAT Attack Resilient Logic Locking Design... for Enhanced Hardware Security" strengthen technical foundations for institutional and cyber security, while "Reconciling Privacy and Explainability in High-Stakes" and "A decision support system for adaptive fund allocation in blockchain-based crowdfunding" examine accountability and transparency in algorithmic decision-making — a growing frontier for SDG 16 in a digital era.

Taken together, this publication record — spanning law, political science, sociology, media studies, public health and computer science — demonstrates that SRM University–AP's contribution to SDG 16 is not confined to campus programming, but extends into a genuine, internationally recognised knowledge contribution on peace, justice and institutional accountability.

CONCLUSION

Across a full academic year, SRM University–AP's contribution to SDG 16 has taken shape as a connected chain rather than a set of isolated activities. Campus programmes on safety, ethics and constitutional literacy build awareness among thousands of students; outreach carries that same ethic of justice, safety and dignity to orphaned children, government-school students and individuals in recovery beyond the campus; a rich calendar of events gives both staff and students recurring, visible opportunities to engage with democracy, human rights and institutional accountability; and a genuinely international body of research on governance, justice and human rights ensures that this commitment also advances the wider scholarly understanding that SDG 16 depends on.

Sustained together, these strands — awareness, ethical values, inclusion, community engagement, events and research — constitute SRM University–AP's evidence-based, ongoing contribution to building peaceful, just and inclusive institutions, both within its own campus and in the communities it serves.