# SATHYABAMA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT · 2024–25**

# SDG 11

## Sustainable Cities and Communities

*"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable."*

Public Access · Libraries · Green Spaces · Arts & Heritage · Sustainable Commuting · Affordable Housing · Pedestrian Priority · Urban Planning

## SDG 11 Indicator Dashboard

■ 11.2 ■ 11.4

**11.2.1**
**2**
public examinations hosted (NPTEL, police recruitment)
*Report p. 3*

**11.2.2**
**3,13,760**
books · 53,013 titles · 13,950 m² library
*Report p. 4*

**11.2.4**
✓
landscaped green campus; NSS tree planting
*Report p. 5*

**11.2.5**
**5**
cultural and artistic events
*Report p. 5*

**11.2.6**
**10**
heritage-preservation activities
*Report p. 11*

**11.4.1**
**15**
buses on B15 biodiesel · 2 generators on B100
*Report p. 17*

**11.4.2**
**150+**
University buses across Chennai
*Report p. 17*

**11.4.3**
Service Policy and Service Rules
*Report p. 18*

**11.4.4**
HRA and on-campus staff accommodation
*Report p. 18*

**11.4.5**
**10**
hostels · about 16,75,000 sq ft
*Report p. 18*

**11.4.6**
pedestrian walkways; battery-operated vehicles
*Report p. 19*

**11.4.7**
**2**
partner bodies (TUFIDCO, ITDP)
*Report p. 19*

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# Introduction

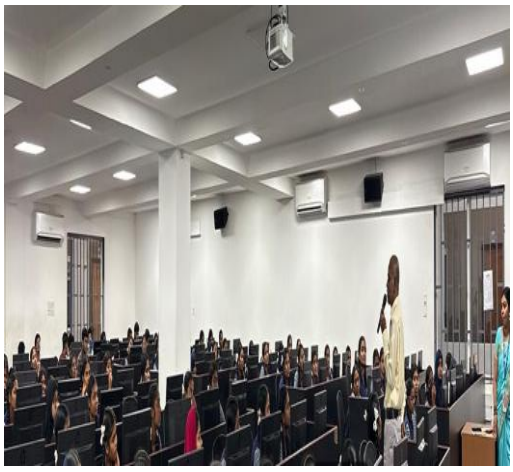
Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, located in the metropolitan region of Chennai, contributes to the aims of Sustainable Development Goal 11 – making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable – through its teaching and research, the management of its campus and the cultural life of its students. The School of Building and Environment engages with urban climate, building performance, housing and pedestrian infrastructure, while the Department of Civil Engineering supports the appraisal and certification of public infrastructure projects undertaken by urban local bodies. The campus is managed with attention to pedestrian movement, green spaces, renewable energy and low-emission transport, and student clubs and programmes help sustain an appreciation of the cultural and natural heritage of Chennai and Tamil Nadu.

# 11.2 Support of Arts and Heritage

## 11.2.1 Public Access to Buildings

### Access to NPTEL Learning Resources and other Examination Facilities

The Central Library provides access to NPTEL learning resources and other digital learning platforms, supporting self-paced learning, subject enrichment and continuing education in engineering, science and the humanities. The University also hosts NPTEL certification examinations on its campus, providing the necessary examination infrastructure for candidates, including learners from outside the institution. These facilities promote continuous learning and skill development while extending the use of the University's educational infrastructure to the wider learning community.





### Police Recruitment Examinations on Campus

The University makes its campus infrastructure and examination facilities available for the conduct of police recruitment examinations. By accommodating candidates from outside the University, it extends the use of its facilities beyond its student community and supports the recruitment process of government agencies, providing an organised examination environment for aspiring candidates.



***Figure 1.*** *Candidate check-in for the examination*



***Figure 2.*** *Candidates and police personnel at the venue*



***Figure 3.*** *Police personnel at the campus entrance*

## 11.2.2 Public Access to University Libraries

The Central Library is the University's principal learning and information resource centre, supporting teaching, learning, scholarship and research. It occupies a separate two-storey building with a floor area of 13,950 square metres (approximately 1,50,156 square feet). The collection comprises 3,13,760 books across 53,013 titles, 3,179 CDs/DVDs, 134 print journals and 100 magazines, supplemented by electronic resources including IEEE, ScienceDirect, ASME, ASCE, ACM Digital Library, ProQuest collections and Web of Science. The library is open to students from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. on working days.

Remote access to electronic resources is provided through Knimbus Remote Access and the mLibrary mobile app, which supports federated searching. The library also offers dedicated support for students with disabilities, including remote access, extended reserve periods, waiver of late fines, delivery of books and electronic content by mail, volunteer readers for visually impaired students, sign-language

interpreters for students with hearing impairments, and JAWS screen-reading software in the digital library.



*Figure 4.* Central Library – exterior



*Figure 5.* Central Library – book stacks



*Figure 6.* Central Library – reading area



*Figure 7.* Digital library

## 11.2.4 Public Access to Open and Green Spaces

The campus includes landscaped open spaces, tree-lined avenues and planted courtyards, and is set within a surrounding wetland ecosystem. Treated water from the campus water-treatment plant is used

for landscape irrigation, and green cover is extended through tree-planting activities such as those undertaken by National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers.



*Figure 8.* Landscaped campus grounds




*Figure 9.* Tree planting by NSS volunteers

## 11.2.5 Arts and Heritage Contribution: Cultural and Artistic Events

Student clubs and the Student Development Cell organised a programme of performing-arts, festival and cultural events during the reporting period, providing platforms for music, dance, visual arts, fashion, film and literature.

### Dance Mania

**Date:** 2 August 2024 | **Organised by:** Dance Club

The Dance Club organised “Dance Mania”, featuring performances in different dance styles together with auditions. The programme gave students a platform for expression through movement, rhythm and performance, supporting student creativity, stage experience and appreciation of dance as an art form.

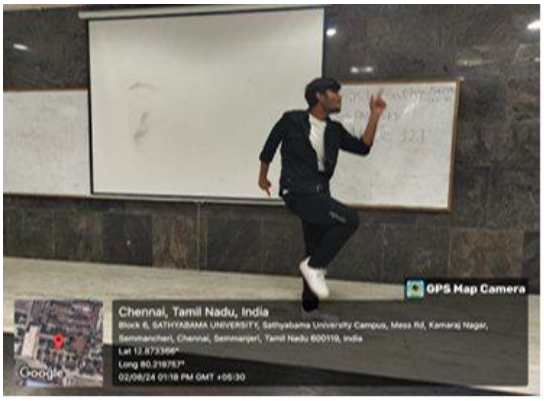



*Figure 10.* Dance Mania performance

### Cultural Fest 2025

**Dates:** 3–5 February 2025 | **Organised by:** Student Development Cell with associated clubs and departments

Cultural Fest 2025 offered a three-day platform for students to take part in music, dance, visual arts, creative writing, fashion and other cultural activities. Events were held at several campus venues under

the guidance of faculty coordinators drawn from different academic departments, bringing students across disciplines together in the cultural life of the campus. The published schedule is summarised below.

| Date | Activities | Venues |
|---|---|---|
| 3 February 2025 | Master of Ceremony; Mug Painting; T-Shirt Painting; Spin a Yarn; Western Song (Solo) | Dr. Remibai Jeppiaar Auditorium (Halls 1 and 3); Non-AC Auditorium; Library Presentation Hall; Viscom Presentation Hall |
| 4 February 2025 | Group Singing; Classical Song (Solo); Rangoli; Fashion Show; Portrait Drawing; Face Painting | Dr. Remibai Jeppiaar Auditorium (Hall 1); Non-AC Auditorium; Architecture Studio; Library Presentation Hall |
| 5 February 2025 | Free Style Dance | B.Arch Auditorium |

*Table 1. Cultural Fest 2025 – schedule of activities and venues*

## Cultural Events 2025 – Photographic Record

The following photographs document the three days of the University's 2025 cultural events, which featured invited guests, music, dance and fashion performances.




***Figure 11.*** *Cultural Events 2025 – Day 1*







***Figure 12.*** *Cultural Events 2025 – Day 2*





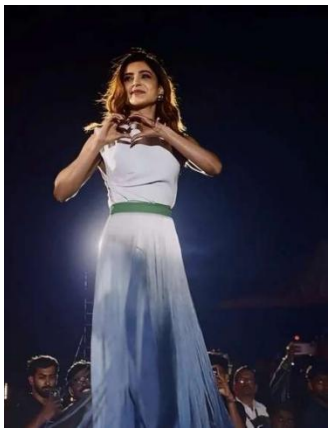


***Figure 13.*** *Cultural Events 2025 – Day 3*

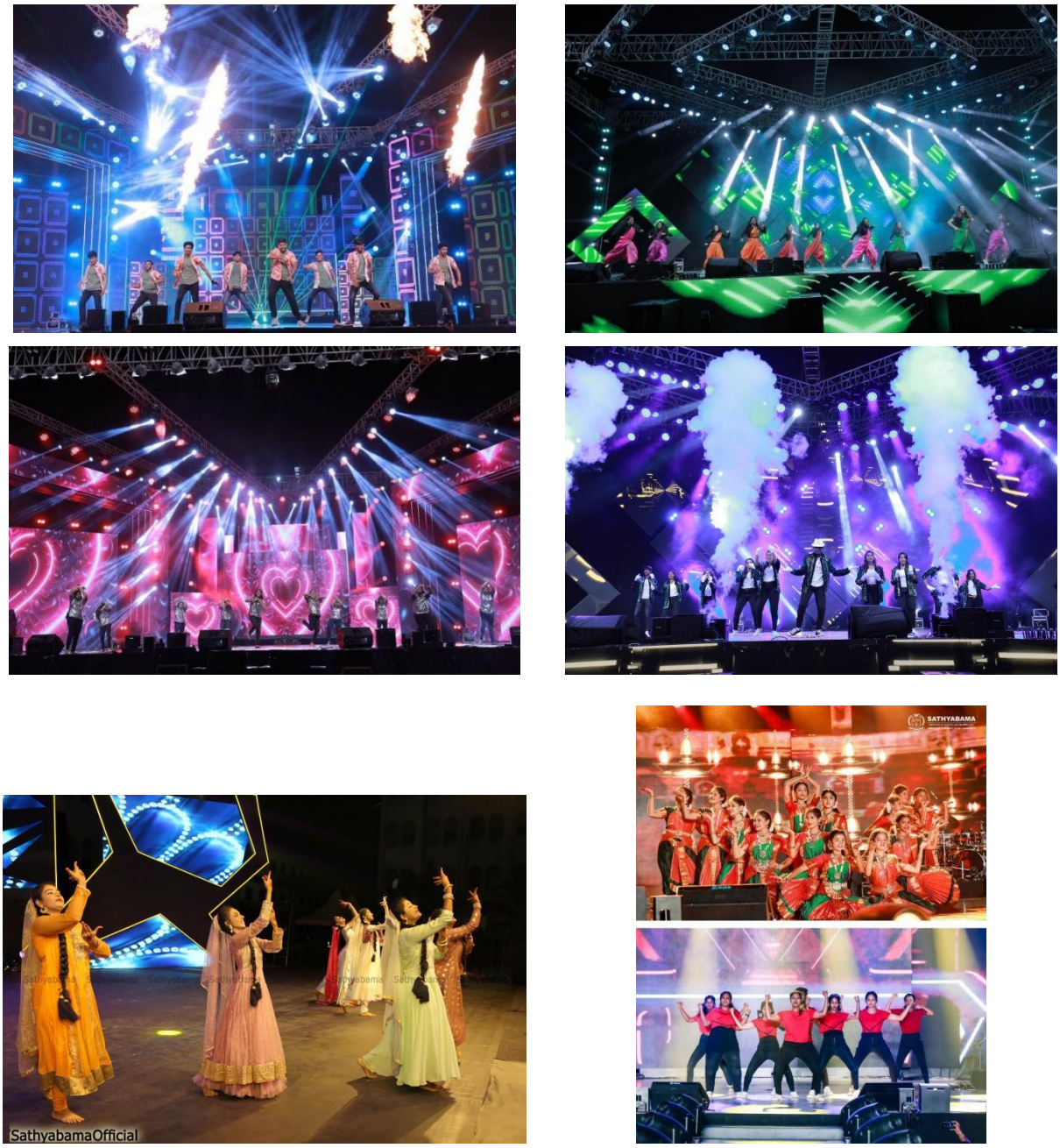



*Figure 14. Cultural Events – stage performances*

## Ramzan Iftar Celebration

**Date:** 20 March 2025

Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology celebrated Ramzan with an Iftar gathering on 20 March 2025. The programme brought together Muslim students and members of the University community to break their fast and share the spirit of the holy month. The celebration reflected the values

of compassion, sharing, unity and religious harmony, and promoted inclusiveness and mutual respect within the campus community.




***Figure 15.*** *Evening prayer during the Iftar gathering*




***Figure 16.*** *Sharing of food at the Iftar gathering*

## Reel Talk – Charlie Chaplin's Modern Times

**Date:** 25 July 2024 | **Organised by:** Movies and Dramatics Club

The Movies and Dramatics Club conducted "Reel Talk", a film-appreciation session centred on Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*. The film is widely recognised for its use of comedy and social observation to examine industrialisation and the experience of modern urban life. The session encouraged students to consider cinema as a medium that reflects social change and human experience.




***Figure 17.*** *Reel Talk film-appreciation session*

## Bookworms Quest

**Date:** 25 July 2024 | **Organised by:** Book Club | **Participants:** Nearly 100 students

The Book Club organised "Bookworms Quest", a two-hour book trivia activity exploring different literary genres. The quiz format encouraged reading interest and engagement with a range of written

works, supporting a reading culture on campus as part of the University's broader literary and cultural programme.



***Figure 18.*** *Bookworms Quest*

## 11.2.6 Recording and Preserving Cultural and Natural Heritage

The activities below engaged students in documenting, interpreting and sustaining the built heritage of Chennai, traditional arts and crafts, Tamil language and festival traditions, and India's cultural diversity and natural heritage.

### Heritage Walk – Discovering the Heritage of Madras

**Date:** 26 July 2024 | **Organised by:** Tourism Club and Student Development Cell, with the Media Club | **Participants:** About 25

To commemorate Madras Day, the Tourism Club, in association with the Media Club, organised a heritage walk around North Madras. Students explored prominent places in the city and observed the architectural and historical character of the surrounding urban environment, sketching and photographing selected locations to record architectural features and elements of the city's heritage.

Through observation, sketching and photography, the walk offered experiential learning beyond the classroom and encouraged students to recognise the historical value of buildings, streets and public spaces and the role of heritage in shaping Chennai's identity.




***Figure 19.*** *Heritage Walk participants commemorating Madras Day*

## Stamp Design Competition – Madras Day

**Date:** 6 August 2024 | **Organised by:** Illustration and Art Club

The Illustration and Art Club conducted a stamp design competition to celebrate Madras Day. Students created stamp designs inspired by the themes, colours, places and cultural character of Madras, interpreting the city's identity through visual art and graphic design. By translating elements of local history and culture into stamp concepts, participants explored how visual design can help preserve and share the memory of a city.



***Figure 20.*** *Students at work in the Stamp Design Competition*

## Interactive Talk on Tanjore Painting

**Date:** 30 July 2024 | **Organised by:** Illustration and Art Club | **Resource person:** Ar. Ramkumar, Department of Architecture

The Illustration and Art Club organised an interactive talk introducing students to the history, materials, process and evolution of Tanjore painting, a traditional South Indian art form. The session explained the distinctive features of the art and familiarised participants with the materials and techniques used in its creation.

By connecting art practice with its historical background, the session highlighted the cultural significance of traditional visual art and the importance of passing craft knowledge on to younger generations.



***Figure 21.*** *Interactive session on Tanjore painting*

## National Handloom Day – Celebrating Traditional Textile Heritage

**Dates:** 5–6 August 2024 | **Organised by:** Fashion Club

The Fashion Club organised a two-day programme to celebrate National Handloom Day, comprising an exhibition, workshops and discussions on handloom fabrics, textile craftsmanship and the artistic traditions of weaving. The exhibition displayed embroidered and decorated fabrics, handmade craft products, jewellery, accessories and fashion illustrations.

The programme linked fashion education with cultural heritage, presenting handloom not only as a textile product but as an expression of regional identity, traditional skill and creative practice, and underlining the importance of sustaining traditional textile knowledge.



***Figure 22.*** *Fashion Club members at the National Handloom Day programme*



***Figure 23.*** *Exhibition of textiles and craft products*

## Tamil Pattimandram

**Date:** 27 January 2025 | **Organised by:** Tamil Club | **Special invitee:** Madurai Muthu

The Tamil Club organised a Pattimandram, a familiar form of Tamil literary and public discourse in which ideas are explored through structured argument and performance. The invited orator, Madurai Muthu, shared experiences relating to Dr. M. G. Ramachandran. The programme brought students into contact with Tamil public-speaking traditions and encouraged appreciation of the Tamil language, spoken expression and personalities associated with Tamil cultural life.




***Figure 24.*** *Felicitation of the invited speaker*



***Figure 25.*** *Pattimandram in progress*

## Enna Solla Pogiray – Tamil Proverbs Quiz

**Date:** 13 March 2025 | **Organised by:** Tamil Club

"Enna Solla Pogiray" was a quiz centred on Tamil proverbs that encouraged students to recall, interpret and understand traditional expressions used in everyday Tamil. Proverbs carry accumulated community experience, values and practical knowledge, and the quiz format offered an engaging way for students to interact with this oral and literary tradition and to sustain its use.




***Figure 26.*** *Enna Solla Pogiray Tamil proverbs quiz*

## Sollodu Vilayadu – Tamil Words and Proverbs Activity

**Date:** 11 April 2025 | **Organised by:** Tamil Club

In "Sollodu Vilayadu", students were given Tamil words and proverbs to engage with through an interactive format, exploring vocabulary, expressions and traditional sayings. The activity highlighted the richness of the Tamil language and the cultural meanings embedded in familiar words, and encouraged students to carry this linguistic heritage into contemporary student life.



***Figure 27.*** *Sollodu Vilayadu activity*

## Pongal Celebration 2025

**Occasion:** Pongal Thiruvizha (harvest festival), 2025

Pongal, the harvest festival of Tamil Nadu, was celebrated on campus in 2025 as Pongal Thiruvizha. Students and staff in traditional attire gathered for the customary preparation of Pongal in earthen pots

over open fires, alongside kolam decorations, traditional games and folk-art performances, sustaining a living cultural tradition within the campus community.



***Figure 28.*** *Preparation of Pongal in earthen pots*

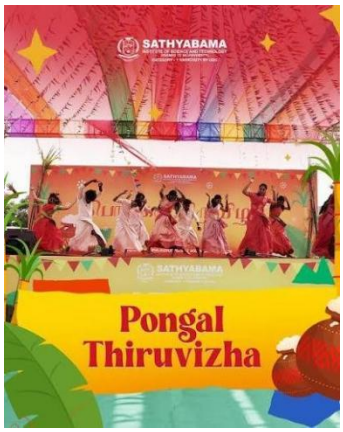



***Figure 29.*** *Pongal Thiruvizha 2025*




***Figure 30.*** *Folk-art performances*



***Figure 31.*** *Traditional games*



***Figure 32.*** *Folk performer at the celebration*

## Documentary Screening – Baraka

**Date:** 4 March 2025 | **Organised by:** Tourism Club

The Tourism Club screened the documentary *Baraka*, which introduced students to human diversity, cultural values and the relationship between people and their environment. Through its imagery of

communities, cultural practices and landscapes, the screening encouraged reflection on cultural diversity and on understanding people and places in their social and environmental contexts.




***Figure 33.*** *Screening of the documentary Baraka*

### Great Cats of India – Wildlife Documentary Screening

**Date:** 28 October 2024 | **Organised by:** Movies and Dramatics Club | **Participants:** 70 students

The Movies and Dramatics Club screened the documentary *Great Cats of India*, followed by a discussion. The programme introduced students to India's wild cat species and drew attention to the country's wildlife heritage and the ecological importance of conserving native species and their habitats. The discussion gave participants an opportunity to reflect on wildlife and biodiversity as part of India's natural heritage.



***Figure 34.*** *Great Cats of India screening and discussion*

## 11.4 Sustainable Practices

### 11.4.1 Sustainable Practice Targets

The University's sustainability information describes a campus planned around pedestrian-friendly movement, battery-operated vehicles for internal travel, and solar energy applications including street lighting, charging points and hostel water heating. Its Climate Action information further describes restrictions on personal vehicles and University buses running on a 15% biodiesel blend derived from

waste cooking oil, and its Affordable and Clean Energy information reports that 15 buses operate on B15 blends and two generators run on B100 (100% biodiesel).



*Figure 35.* Solar street lighting




*Figure 36.* Battery-operated campus vehicle



*Figure 37.* Solar panels with controller




*Figure 38.* University buses running on biodiesel blends

## 11.4.2 Promote Sustainable Commuting

The University promotes sustainable commuting through its own bus network: more than 150 buses connect the campus with locations across Chennai and its suburbs. Route information is published on the University website, and special buses support students attending placement training, civil services coaching and library use. Shared transport of this scale reduces reliance on private vehicles for daily travel to campus.

**Route information:**
https://sist.sathyabama.ac.in/website/12TH%20JUNE%202024%20MORNING%20ROUTE%20LIST.pdf

## 11.4.3 Allow Remote Working

The University's employee service conditions are set out in the documents listed below. Online teaching, digital administration and remote-work arrangements adopted during the COVID-19 period are not presented here as evidence of a standing remote-working policy for 2024–25.

**Service Policy:** https://sist.sathyabama.ac.in/website/download/6.1_Service_Policy.pdf

**Service Rules, Procedures and Policy (2019):** https://www.sathyabama.ac.in/sites/default/files/2021-04/Sathyabama_Service%20rules%202019.pdf

## 11.4.4 Affordable Housing for Employees

The University's Service Policy provides that House Rent Allowance (HRA) and other allowances for regular employees are fixed by the management from time to time. Employee accommodation available on campus is shown below.



*Figure 39. Employee accommodation*



*Figure 40. Employee accommodation – entrance*

**Accommodation and Accessibility Policy:**
https://sist.sathyabama.ac.in/download/AccomodationAndAccessibilityPolicy.pdf

**Hostel accommodation:** https://www.sathyabama.ac.in/campus-life/hostel-facility

## 11.4.5 Affordable Housing for Students

The University provides residential accommodation through five boys' hostels and five girls' hostels. The hostel campus covers approximately 16,75,000 square feet and lies within easy reach of classrooms and sports facilities. Facilities include well-ventilated rooms, attached bathrooms and air-conditioned options.

**Hostel Rules and Regulations:** https://www.sathyabama.ac.in/sites/default/files/2023-07/Hostel%20Rules%20%26%20Regulations.pdf

## 11.4.6 Pedestrian Priority on Campus

Architectural site documentation of the campus records tree-lined pedestrian pathways, landscaped walkways and green corridors linking different parts of the campus. Together with battery-operated

vehicles and restrictions on personal vehicles (Section 11.4.1), these routes support a walkable campus environment in which pedestrians are given priority.



***Figure 41.*** *Tree-lined pedestrian pathway*



***Figure 42.*** *Landscaped walkway and green corridor*



***Figure 43.*** *Campus pathways and pedestrian-friendly environment*

## 11.4.7 Local Authority Collaboration Regarding Planning and Development

### Appraisal and Certification of Urban Infrastructure

The Department of Civil Engineering has a continuing association with the Tamil Nadu Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (TUFIDCO). Civil Engineering faculty appraise government-sponsored infrastructure projects, including bus stands, parks, water supply, water bodies, roads, stormwater drains and culverts, under schemes such as NUHM, RIDF, Kalaignar Nagarpura Mempattu Thittam and Nagarpura Salaigal Mempattu Thittam. The Department also provides third-party certification for development projects undertaken by town panchayats and municipalities, applying the University's technical expertise to the quality of infrastructure delivered by urban local bodies.

### Sustainable Transportation and Pedestrian Infrastructure Studies

The School of Building and Environment has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP), Chennai, which provides a framework for collaboration on sustainable urban mobility and planning. As part of this work, students developed proposals for pedestrian infrastructure in the influence areas of schools in Mylapore and Saidapet, addressing safe and accessible walking routes in dense urban neighbourhoods.

**Official link:** https://sist.sathyabama.ac.in/sist_naac/documents/1.3.4/2022-m.arch-sa-batchno-2.pdf

## Urban Thinkers Campus 9.0 – Veedum Makkalum

**Period:** July – September 2024 | **Organising unit:** School of Building and Environment | **Mode:** Online and on campus

The School of Building and Environment listed Urban Thinkers Campus 9.0 – *Veedum Makkalum* ("Homes and People") as an online and on-campus programme on urban housing. The programme included sessions on Housing for the Urban Under-served (12 July) and Passivhaus (18 July); a faculty development programme on Rhino for housing design and indoor comfort; a housing redesign contest (19–20 July); and sessions on Climate-Responsive Design, Air-Purifying Plants and Homes, Padur Urban Housing and Minimal Housing in Mandaveli, concluding with a round-table conclave.



***Figure 44.*** *Urban Thinkers Campus 9.0 – Veedum Makkalum session*

## Centre of Excellence in Urban Climate and Built Environment

Within the Department of Architecture, School of Building and Environment, the Centre of Excellence in Urban Climate and Built Environment operates a climatology laboratory equipped with thermal imagers, indoor and outdoor data loggers, and simulation software including IESVE and ENVI-met. The Centre's research themes – building materials, energy efficiency in buildings, urban heat-island effects and sustainable landscape planning – are relevant to urban planning and development. The School's

laboratories and workshops support hands-on learning in materials, construction, building services, model-making and computational design.



*Figure 45. Material Laboratory*



*Figure 46. Computer Laboratory*



*Figure 47. Urban Climate and Built Environment Laboratory*



*Figure 48. Model-Making Laboratory*



*Figure 49. Construction Yard*



*Figure 50. Building Services Laboratory*

# Conclusion

Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology engages with SDG 11 across its cultural, academic and operational life. By opening its campus and examination facilities to external candidates for NPTEL certification and police recruitment examinations, and by maintaining a well-resourced and accessible library and landscaped green spaces, the University extends the use of its infrastructure to the wider community.

A broad programme of cultural events – from the Madras Day heritage walk and stamp design competition to sessions on Tanjore painting and handloom textiles, Tamil language and oratory, festivals such as Pongal, Ramzan Iftar and Cultural Fest 2025, and documentary screenings on cultural diversity and wildlife – has encouraged students to value the cultural and natural heritage of Chennai and Tamil Nadu and to celebrate the diversity of the campus community.

Through its sustainable practices, the University demonstrates SDG 11 principles at an institutional scale: a biodiesel-assisted bus network serving Chennai and its suburbs, battery-operated vehicles and pedestrian pathways on campus, solar energy applications, and hostel and staff accommodation. Its work with TUFIDCO and urban local bodies, its collaboration with ITDP, the Urban Thinkers Campus programme on housing and the Centre of Excellence in Urban Climate and Built Environment contribute knowledge and technical capacity to the planning of more liveable and resilient urban environments.

Looking ahead, the University can strengthen its contribution by documenting public access to its library and green spaces, recording expenditure on arts and heritage, setting and monitoring measurable targets for sustainable commuting and campus construction, clarifying policies on flexible working, and systematically recording participation and outcomes for its heritage and community activities. These steps will further its commitment to building inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable communities.