Justification for the Proposed Programs

The proposed university seeks to establish itself as a "distinct category" institution, providing innovative, multidisciplinary education tailored to India's strategic priorities and evolving socio-economic challenges. As various sectors in India experience rapid growth, the demand for skilled professionals has surged, necessitating targeted educational programs. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the need for a workforce that is future-ready, adaptable, and skilled in both traditional and emerging disciplines, with a strong focus on integrating Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS). Each proposed program of SRAHE addresses the pressing need for talent in its respective field, ensuring that students are prepared to meet India's specific challenges and industry needs while drawing from India's rich cultural heritage. These programs are not only aligned with the goals of NEP 2020 but also contribute directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that students are equipped to tackle contemporary global challenges.

Each program is developed to address a specific need within the Indian and global context, such as the digital preservation of cultural heritage, sustainable urban infrastructure, and the application of data analytics in healthcare and environmental management. Further, the university's emphasis on international collaborations ensures that students gain exposure to global best practices while addressing local challenges. This unique combination of focus areas positions the university as a leader in integrating education, research, and innovation, making it an ideal candidate for recognition as a distinct category deemed university. The following table outlines how each proposed program fits into this vision, with a detailed justification of their alignment with NEP 2020 and their contributions to strategic national needs.

Name of the Program	Justification
Digital and Heritage Arts	The cultural sector in India is seeing a revitalization, with a rising interest in digital preservation and creative industries, projected to grow by 10% annually over the next decade. The Digital and Heritage Arts program at SRAHE blends traditional Indian arts with modern digital technologies to preserve and promote cultural heritage. It encourages entrepreneurship in the cultural sector, allowing students to use digital tools for heritage preservation, multimedia design, and cultural dissemination. By incorporating elements of IKS, such as ancient storytelling techniques, traditional art forms, and indigenous knowledge of visual arts, the program prepares students to become leaders in digital heritage management and multimedia design. The program aligns with NEP 2020's emphasis on holistic and multidisciplinary education by integrating arts and technology. It supports SDG 8 (Decent Work and

	Economic Growth) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) while fostering critical thinking and creativity, key aspects of NEP 2020's vision for skill development and a knowledge-driven society.
Smart Urban Infrastructure	As India's urban population is projected to reach 600 million by 2030, the demand for smart city solutions is expected to grow by 20% per year. The Government of India's Smart Cities Mission emphasizes the need for advanced urban management skills to build sustainable and resilient cities. This program trains students to design and manage urban infrastructure using advanced technologies, while also integrating traditional Indian concepts of urban planning, such as Vaastu Shastra and community-centric development. This approach aligns with NEP 2020's vision of practical and vocational education for real-world challenges and supports SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and SDG 11.
Health Informatics	The Indian healthcare sector is expanding rapidly, with the digital health market expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 20% over the next five years. There is an increasing need for professionals who can leverage data analytics, AI, and telemedicine to improve patient care and healthcare management. This program integrates IKS by incorporating traditional health practices like Ayurveda, Yoga, and meditation, along with modern health informatics tools, offering a holistic approach to healthcare. It aligns with NEP 2020's vision for integrating technology and traditional knowledge systems in education, contributing to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).
Environmental Informatics	India faces significant challenges related to climate change, water management, and biodiversity conservation. With the government's commitment to achieving a 30-35% reduction in emissions intensity by 2030, there is a 15% annual growth in demand for professionals skilled in environmental data analysis and sustainable practices. This program integrates IKS, drawing from traditional Indian environmental knowledge such as ancient water conservation techniques, agricultural practices, and sustainable land management methods. This approach, combined with data science, prepares students to make data-driven decisions for sustainable development. It aligns with NEP 2020's emphasis on multidisciplinary approaches and supports SDG 13 (Climate Action).
Energy Informatics	India is undergoing a major transition towards renewable energy, with the sector expected to grow by 10-12% annually due to increasing

	investments in solar, wind, and smart grid technologies. This program addresses the need for expertise in optimizing and managing energy systems through information technology, incorporating traditional Indian insights on renewable energy usage, like ancient solar architecture and sustainable energy practices. It aligns with NEP 2020's focus on technical and vocational education and supports SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13, preparing students to lead India's efforts in achieving energy security and sustainability.
Design Thinking and Technology Management	Social innovation is gaining prominence in India, with a projected 8-10% annual growth in demand for professionals who can address societal challenges through creative solutions. This interdisciplinary program combines design thinking with technology management, focusing on developing solutions for issues like rural development, digital inclusion, and social entrepreneurship. By incorporating elements of IKS, such as community-based problem-solving approaches and traditional wisdom in social structures, the program prepares students to become leaders in social change. It aligns with NEP 2020's emphasis on fostering creativity and critical thinking, supporting SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality).
International Engineering Programs	Building on the institution's pioneering role in offering International Engineering Programs, this program provides advanced education in fields like Computer Science Engineering (CSE), Information Technology (IT), and Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) in collaboration with universities in the USA. It aligns with NEP 2020's emphasis on internationalization and exposure to global education systems, promoting academic exchange and cross-border learning. The program supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 9 (Industry Innovation and Infrastructure), equipping students with the skills to thrive in a globalized engineering landscape and bringing international best practices to Indian education.

These programs are designed to address India's critical need for skilled manpower across various sectors, ensuring that graduates are ready to tackle the challenges of a rapidly evolving economy. By integrating Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) with contemporary education, aligning with NEP 2020, and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals, the proposed programs ensure that the university stands out as a leader in combining traditional wisdom with modern innovation. This makes it a strong candidate for recognition as a "distinct category" deemed university, capable of driving India's growth in the 21st century.