



VIT
Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)



Rashtriya Ekta (National Unity) Seminar in collaboration with ICSSR

Vision of Self-reliant Bharat: Revisiting Pragmatism, Idealism and Unification in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Thought

04-05 August 2025

Vellore Institute of Technology

Vellore-632014, Tamil Nadu

In Collaboration
with



Indian Council of
Social Science Research

Organised by

Department of Social Sciences
School of Social Sciences and Languages
Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore- 632014
Tamil Nadu, India

About Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT)



VIT was established with the aim of providing quality higher education on par with international standards. The global standards set at VIT in the field of teaching and research spur us on in our relentless pursuit of excellence. It works with a vision of Transforming life through excellence in education and research and with a mission of providing world class education, cutting-edge research, impactful people, rewarding co-creations and service to society. NAAC has accredited VIT with an 'A++' grade in the 4th cycle. It has been ranked by MHRD NIRF Ranking, Govt. of India – 10th Best in University, and ranked 791-800 in QS World University Ranking 2025. VIT Group of Institutions offer 71 Undergraduate, 58 Postgraduate, 15 Integrated Programmes, 2 Research programmes and 2 M.Tech Industrial Programmes. In addition to full-time Ph.D Degrees in Engineering and Management Disciplines, Ph.D. in Science and Languages and Integrated Ph.D. programmes in engineering disciplines. Research Centres, integral of respective schools encourage inter-departmental collaborative participation of students in exciting research projects. VIT has over 58000 students, with nearly one- third of them girls and students from 70 countries and from all states & Union Territories of India.

About School of Social Sciences and Languages (SSL)



Established as a distinct entity in 2009, the School of Social Sciences and Languages (SSL) employs innovative teaching methods and adopts interdisciplinary approaches to learning. The School helps students gain knowledge and skills that are required in the global market. It adheres to the highest standards in teaching-learning by employing innovative practices, ensuring excellence in research, and adopting rigorous internal peer and student reviews. The school maintains an outstanding record of awards for excellence in teaching within the VIT community and in the broader higher education context. It is equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories and a team of 135 excellent faculty members with commendable research capabilities. The school has the Department of Commerce, Department of Social Sciences, Department of English, and Department of Languages. The school offers the Bachelor of Commerce, B.Com (General), B.Com (Banking and Capital Markets), B. Com (Financial Technology), B.Com (Business Process Services) and Masters of Social Work (MSW) Programme. Ph.D. programmes are offered in Commerce, Economics, Social Work, Political Science, Tamil, English, Psychology, Sociology, Hindi, French, Spanish, History and International Relations.

About Department of Social Sciences

The Department of Social Sciences was established in 2009 under the School of Social Sciences and Languages, keeping in mind to nurture global citizens with relevant knowledge, skill and attitude. The department offers courses on Political Science, International Relations, Social Work, Sociology, Psychology, Economics, History, Ethics and Values and Indian Classical Music for UG programmes of both engineering and non-engineering disciplines to enable students with holistic development. The Postgraduate programme on Social Work (MSW) was introduced in 2021 with three specializations - Medical and Psychiatric Social Work, Community Development and Human Resource Management. The Department also offers minor programmes in Economics and Finance. The Department of Social Sciences offers PhD programmes in Political Science, IR, History, Economics, Psychology, Sociology and Social Work. The Department has 37 faculty members with excellent academic and research backgrounds.

Vision of the SSL

- To be a centre of academic excellence by fostering holistic growth and development in students

Mission of the SSL

- To mould students from different cross sections of society by enhancing professional competence, self-confidence and a positive attitude that would help in the economic development of the nation.
- To impart linguistic skills by innovative teaching-learning processes.
- To inspire and empower students from diverse backgrounds to become innovative leaders and entrepreneurs who will contribute to the betterment of society with ethical and social responsibility.

Concept Note of Seminar

Sardar Patel's contribution to tackle the improbable challenges that India faced and his imagination for nation-building is a living embodiment of his pragmatic thought for the cultural, political and economic preservation of the nation. Consequently, he alerted people to be mindful of the fact that independence will eventually bring in the form of responsibility, pragmatic policy-making and ensuing task for nation-building. The Indian independence movement is incomplete without recognizing the monumental contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, often referred to as the "Iron Man of India". Sardar Patel as a popular farmer leader, an organiser in the organisation, and later as Home Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister left no stone unturned to mobilise, sensitise and organise people for the cause of Bharat's freedom from the British rule, cultural imperialism and colonisation of the mind and thought.

As the nation transitioned into independence amidst unprecedented challenges, Patel emerged as a stalwart leader whose pragmatic vision and decisive actions laid the foundation for India's unity and integrity. Practical to the core, he possessed sharp common sense and an exceptional understanding of people and situations, making him a remarkable leader with an unyielding grasp of reality and human nature. Within a short span of time, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel reshaped the political map of India by ensuring the seamless integration of over 556 princely states into the Indian nation. His pragmatic approach and strategic vision of foreign policy and national security transformed a fragmented political landscape into a unified nation, complementing cultural unity and harmony.

This seminar aims to explore Patel's role in integrating the princely states, his political philosophy, pragmatism, administrative acumen and his contributions to building a cohesive and strong Indian nation-state. The seminar will feature eminent academicians, historians, political scientists and policymakers who will engage in discussions on Patel's enduring legacy.

Objectives

1. To analyze Sardar Patel's vision of a united India in the wake of Independence and Partition's horror.
2. To examine his role in integrating over 556 princely states into Bharat, constitutionally referred to as the Indian Union.
3. To understand Sardar Patel's contributions to the ideals and policies of equality, justice, fraternity and national integration.
4. To explore his approach to national security, foreign policy, governance and nation-building.
5. To reflect on the relevance of Patel's ideas in contemporary India and their implications for future governance and development.

Guidelines for Submission of Abstract and Full Paper

1. The abstract (500 words) and Poster Intent should be submitted to the google form link: <https://forms.gle/wnKKAv4WCE41ARzD8> or send an email to **sardarpatelseminarvit@gmail.com**
2. Once the Abstract is accepted, the word limit of the full-length original paper should be 5000-7000 words.
3. The full paper must accompany an abstract (strictly between 200-300 words) and 4-5 keywords.
4. The full paper should have a title page containing the paper title, name(s) of the author(s), affiliation, e-mail address and mobile no. of the corresponding author.
5. The main document should be double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides, and the pages should be numbered consecutively.
6. The paper should follow Times New Roman, 12-point font, line spacing 1.5 and should be submitted in a Word document.
7. The paper should follow the APA (American Psychological Association) 7th edition referencing style.
8. Only submissions in the English language will be considered.
9. All submissions must be the author's original and unpublished work. Plagiarism reports of more than 10% will attract immediate disqualification. Use of generative AI can lead to rejection of the paper.
10. Submissions not adhering to the guidelines will not be considered.
11. Poster must be displayed only in A2 Size Chart paper.

College Students are eligible for Poster Presentation

Scope for Publication

1. ICSSR will publish a few selected papers based on the peer review by an expert peer-review committee.
2. The seminar organiser will also publish the selected papers in Scopus-indexed international publications.
3. Best Paper Awards and Best Poster for College Students Category

Registration and Participation

1. Registration Fee for **College (UG/PG) Participants: INR 100; PhD Scholars: INR 400; Think Tank Researchers: INR 1000; Faculty: INR 1500**
2. All participants/authors who register for the event will get a Participation Certificate. Any one of the authors can present the paper, however, only those author(s) will be awarded the certificate of presentation who has registered for the event.
3. At least one of the authors needs to present their paper on the day of the event.

All the registered participants will receive a certificate

Themes and Sub-themes

1. Patel's Vision of an Independent India:

- His interpretation of Swaraj, Constructive programme and self-reliant India.
- Challenges and horrors faced in post-Partitioned India and Patel's insurmountable contribution to ensuring the safety of the Indian Citizens as Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India.

2. Integration of Princely States:

- The strategic, pragmatic and diplomatic brilliance of Sardar Patel behind the unification of over 556 princely states.
- The role of the Instrument of Accession and related negotiations in ensuring an indestructible Union, known as Bharat.
- Lessons from Patel's integration policies for contemporary federal challenges, not limited to India but worldwide.

3. Constitutionalism in Patel's Thought:

- Sardar Patel's emphasis on social harmony, justice, equality, fraternity and inclusivity.
- His contribution in shaping the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

4. Sardar Patel and Nation-Building:

- Sardar Patel's role in administrative reorganization and institutional consolidation after Independence.
- His contributions to long-term peace, industrialization and governance reforms.

5. Sardar Patel and India's Foreign Policy:

- His approach to maintaining India's sovereignty in international relations.
- Challenges and strategies in dealing with neighbouring countries and global powers.
- Sardar Patel's China Policy, on Pakistan and the West.

6. Sardar Patel & Contemporary India:

- The relevance of Patel's vision in addressing present-day challenges to India's unity and integrity.
- Insights for policy-making and governance.
- Sardar Patel's Pragmatism and the art of governance in India.

7. National Security & Geopolitics

8. Freedom Struggle & Leadership

Travel and Accommodation

1. Accommodation for early birds and food will be provided to the outstation participants according to the ICSSR rules and guidelines.
2. Limited Travel reimbursement as per the ICSSR rules will be provided.

Important Dates

- Seminar Date: 04-05 August 2025, VIT, Vellore, Tamil Nadu
- Last date of Abstract Submission/Poster Intent: 30 April 2025
- Intimation of acceptance of abstract: 05 May 2025
- Registration for the selected candidates: 26 May 2025
- Last date for Submission of Full Paper: 20 June 2025
- Intimation of acceptance of Full Paper: 24 June 2025

Queries and Clarifications

All queries must be directed to the following persons:

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Dr. G. Viswanathan
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Dr. Sarika Gupta
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Vision

Transforming life through excellence in education and research.

Mission

- World class Education: Excellence in education, grounded in ethics and critical thinking, for improvement of life.
- Cutting edge Research: An innovation ecosystem to extend knowledge and solve critical problems.
- Impactful People: Happy, accountable, caring and effective workforce and students.
- Rewarding Co-creations: Active collaboration with national & international industries & universities for productivity and economic development.
- Service to Society: Service to the region and world through knowledge and compassion.

