

## ABOUT VELLORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) was founded in 1984 as Vellore Engineering College by Chancellor Dr G. Viswanathan. VIT attracts students from all 29 states of India and more than 41 different countries because of its academic excellence. VIT was established with the aim of providing quality higher education on par with international standards. VIT has been constantly ranked among the best Universities and is aspiring to emerge as a global leader. VIT has already been ranked by major International rankings agencies such as Shanghai ARWU Ranking, QS, Times Higher Education, US News, RUR, and others. VIT sets the record as eight of the subjects made their way to the prestigious Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings (WUR) by Subject in 2023. Seven subjects of VIT are within the top 450 QS World University Rankings by Subject. VIT has national accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Govt. of India with an A++ grade.

## ABOUT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LANGUAGES

The School of Social Sciences and Languages (SSL) was established in the year 2009 as a separate school. The prime focus of the School is to impart futuristic education in subjects such as Commerce, Economics, Finance and Accountancy, Business and Corporate Law, Psychology, Sociology, History, Music, Ethics & Values, Master of Social Work and Indian and Foreign languages such as English, French, German, Chinese, Spanish, Russian, Japanese and Arabic apart from Tamil and Hindi.

## ABOUT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department at VIT provides compulsory English courses for all undergraduate and postgraduate students, focusing on technical English, communication, and soft skills like public speaking and leadership. The Department of English has an established Ph.D. Programme. The department enhances learning through state-of-the-art language laboratories. The faculty are highly qualified, conduct workshops and webinars, and engage in research, contributing to global standards and the university's reputation.

## ABOUT THE SEMINAR

The seminar intends to engage with diverse forms of indigenous micro-knowledge systems which are embedded in cultural, environmental, corporeal, martial, spiritual and ritual practices in India. It will bring together scholars and practitioners from multiple disciplines to discuss how these eclectic systems of knowledge shape and interact with memory, environment, health, embodiment, and esoteric traditions. One of the primary objectives of the seminar is to highlight the significance of regional and traditional epistemologies in contemporary scholarship and to foster interdisciplinary dialogue across memory studies, environmental humanities, medical humanities, martial arts studies, embodied knowledge, and occult traditions. In the process of developing a dialogue between and/or among these discourses, we attempt to explore how regional knowledge informs cultural identity, resilience, and sustainable practices. A focused deliberation on such matters will initiate discourse on the need to preserve and revitalize marginalized knowledge forms.



VIT<sup>®</sup>

Vellore Institute of Technology

(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)



One-day National Virtual Seminar

## Indigenous/Folk Epistemologies : Intersections of Tradition, Memory, and Practic(s)e



31 January 2026

Organized by  
**Department of English**  
**School of Social Sciences and Languages**  
**Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore.**

<https://vit.ac.in/schools/ssl>

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### Dr. Devender Kumar

Professor, Department of English,  
Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University



### Dr. Nidhi Vats

Associate Professor,  
Department of English, University of Delhi

#### Abstract Submission:

Word Limit: 250–300 words  
Submission Deadline: 20/12/2025  
Notification of Acceptance: 25/12/25  
Submission of full paper: 25 January 2026

**Abstract Submission Link:** <https://forms.gle/UtvrkDBBAVWuT43H9>



#### Registration Details:

**Fee: Rs. 500 /- including GST** ( applicable to both Participants and Paper Presenters)

**Mode of Payment:** Access the link or scan the QR code below and make the payment.

**Link:** <https://events.vit.ac.in/>



**Last Date for Registration:** 27/12/25

**Certificate:** E-certificates will be provided to all the registered Participants and Paper Presenters.

**Registration will be confirmed only after payment and submission of the registration form.**

#### Publication:

Selected papers will be considered for publication in a peer-reviewed edited volume.

We invite original research papers and presentations on themes including, but not limited to:

#### 1. Memory Studies and Oral Traditions

Oral histories, Mnemonic devices in storytelling & rituals, Memory, trauma, gender and resilience, Festivals and commemorations.

#### 2. Environmental Humanities

Folk environmental epistemologies & sustainability, Environmental activism, Climate change and indigenous practices

#### 3. Medical Humanities and Indigenous Healing Practices

Regional medicinal plants and healing rituals, Folk anatomy and embodied health knowledge, Intersection of indigenous healing and modern medicine, Rituals, spirituality, and health.

#### 4. Martial Arts and Embodied Practices

Martial arts as knowledge and identity; Body, memory and kinesthetics; Ritual, performance and healing practices.

#### 5. Occult Knowledge and Esoteric Traditions

Regional occult systems, alchemy, and spiritual epistemologies, Astrology, divination, and folk prophecy, Folk religion and mainstream belief systems, Secret knowledge: ethics and pedagogy, Occult and tantric traditions, Ghosts, spirit possession, and indigenous cosmologies.

#### 6. Methodologies in Studying Folk Knowledge

Research methods, Digital humanities and archiving folk epistemologies, Challenges in interpreting oral and embodied knowledge, Decolonising knowledge, Performative and aesthetic approaches, Interdisciplinary frameworks for studying dance, ritual, and movement traditions, Ethical considerations in documenting and representing living traditions.

#### 7. Food and Culinary Practices

Food as a cultural practice, Food, caste/class and the notion of purity, Food as embodied knowledge, Farming, food, recipes, and memory.

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

### Chief Patron

Dr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT

### Patrons

Shri. Sankar Viswanathan, Vice President, VIT

Dr. Sekar Viswanathan, Vice President, VIT

Dr. G. V. Selvam, Vice President, VIT

Dr. Sandhya Pentareddy, Executive Director, VIT

Ms. Kadhambari S Viswanathan, Assistant Vice President, VIT

### Co-Patrons

Dr. V. S. Kanchana Bhaaskaran, Vice Chancellor, VIT, Vellore

Dr. Partha Sharathi Mallick, Pro Vice-Chancellor, VIT, Vellore

Dr. T. Jayabharathi, Registrar, VIT, Vellore

### Convenor

Dr. V. Selvam, Dean, SSL

### Co-Convenors

Dr. Sarika Gupta, Associate Dean, SSL

Dr J. Anil Premraj, Head, Department of English

### Seminar Coordinators

Dr. Shivshankar Rajmohan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, SSL, VIT,  
Vellore,

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pankaj, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English,  
SSL, VIT, Vellore,



### Contact

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## Programmes Offered in Vellore Campus

### UG

B. Com – Bachelor of Commerce

B.Com (Banking and Capital Markets)

B.Com (Financial Technology)

B.Com (Business Process Services)

### PG

Master of Social Work

### PhD

Commerce

English

Tamil

Hindi

French

Spanish

Social Work

Political Science

History

Economics

Sociology

Psychology.

**For more details : <https://vit.ac.in/schools/ssl>**