ABOUT VELLORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) was founded in 1984 as Vellore Engineering College by the Honorable chancellor Dr. G.Viswanathan. The institution was established with the aim of providing quality higher education on par with international standards. It persistently seeks and adopts innovative methods to improve the quality of higher education on a consistent basis. The campus has a cosmopolitan atmosphere with students from all corners of the globe. Experienced and learned teachers are strongly encouraged to nurture the students. The global standards set at VIT in the field of teaching and research spurs us on in our relentless pursuit of excellence. Memoranda of Understanding with various international universities are our major strength. They provide for an exchange of students and faculty and encourage joint research projects for the mutual benefit of these universities. Many of our students, who pursue their research projects in foreign universities, bring high quality to their work and esteem to India and have done us proud. With steady steps, we continue our march forward. We look forward to meeting you here at VIT.

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.

VIT®

Vellore Institute of Technology

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

School of Social Sciences and Languages (SSL)

Department of English

Organizes

A One-Day Offline National Workshop

On

Understanding Disability: Rights, Culture, and Inclusion

2nd November 2026



RESOURCE PERSON



Prof. Banibrata Mahanta

Professor, Department of English,
Banaras Hindu University

Prof. Banibrata Mahanta has over two decades of academic experience in the areas related to Disability Studies, Translation Studies and Gender Studies. His monograph *Disability Studies: An Introduction* (2016) and the volume titled *Narrative Universes of Disability: Global Perspectives* (Springer 2025) offer significant critical insights into the field of disability studies. Beyond his academic work, Prof. Mahanta also conducts sensitization workshops across India on disability-based marginalization, engaging with issues within and outside academia.

Awards and Recognitions

- Founding Member and Vice-Chair, Indian Disability Studies Collective
- Member, The LSA Philip J. Bowman Centre for Scholarship to Practice, University of Michigan
- Member, International Forum of Inclusion Practitioners (IFIP), London
- Awarded PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant, PEN America, 2021
- Winner, Valley of Words Best English Translation, 2025
- Winner, Muse India Translation Award, 2025

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The workshop aims to sensitize participants towards disability and disabled persons as envisioned in the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) launched in 2015 and enunciated in the RPwD Act 2016. It addresses stereotypes, misconceptions, and challenges faced by disabled persons. Using hands-on activities, it deals with the subject of accessibility, inclusion and inclusive language. The primary resources include literature, media and policy documents.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Faculty, research scholars, postgraduate and undergraduate students across disciplines (especially humanities and social sciences), administrative staff involved in student welfare, and anyone interested in learning practical and theoretical approaches to accessibility and inclusion.

REGISTRATION

- Registration is on first come first serve basis. The workshop is limited to **50 participants.**
- Registration fee: **₹300** (inclusive of taxes).
- Last date for registration: **2nd November 2026**
- Registration link: **https://events.vit.ac.in/**

Scan to Register

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

- Certificates of Participation (Digital)
- Refreshment (High Tea) during breaks
- Workshop materials and a short reading list
- Practical templates and checklists for campus accessibility audits

The workshop does not fund travel fares or registration charges for the participants. Food and Lodging services are not included. High Tea will be available for all the participants.

COORDINATORS & CONTACT

Dr. Atul Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor,
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Dr. Pankaj Kumar Verma , Assistant Professor,
Department of English. pankajkumar.v@vit.ac.in
+918400443095

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

10.00–11.15 am

SESSION I

Introduction to Disability and Disability Studies

What is disability; understanding disability in the world and in India; disability activism; disability redefined; ability; accessibility; inclusion.

11.30 am–12.45 pm

SESSION II

Disability and Language

Understanding inclusion/exclusion through language; understanding the import of disability descriptors.

2.15–3.30 pm

SESSION III

Disability, Accessibility and Higher Education

Experiencing ability and accessibility through activities; accessibility tour of the campus.

3.45–5.00 pm

SESSION IV

Disability, Literature, and Popular Culture

Illustrating how cultural texts script our understanding/perception of disability and disabled people.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chief Patron

Dr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT

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Dr. T. Jayabharathi, Registrar, VIT, Vellore

Convenor

Dr. V. Selvam, Dean, SSL

Co-Convenors

Dr. Sarika Gupta, Associate Dean, SSL
Dr. Vijayakumar M , Head, Department of English

PROGRAMMES OFFERED IN SSL, 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