

ABOUT VELLORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

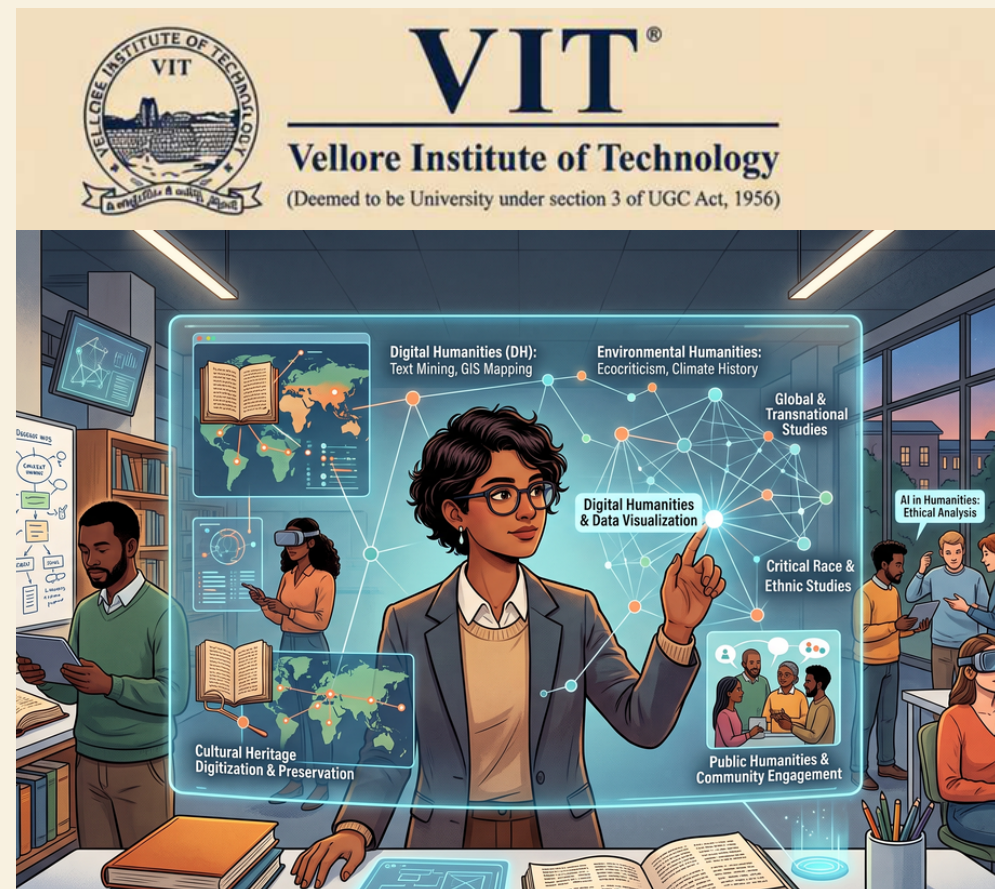
Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) was founded in 1984 as Vellore Engineering College by the Honorable chancellor Dr. G. Viswanathan. The institution was established with the aim of providing quality higher education on par with international standards. It persistently seeks and adopts innovative 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.



ONE-DAY ONLINE NATIONAL WORKSHOP

Emerging Research Trends in Humanities: Themes, Methods and Approaches 09th OCTOBER 2026

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

SESSION 01: RESOURCE PERSON

Dr. Dibyakusum Ray

Associate Professor (English), Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar



TOPIC OF DISCUSSION: THE HUMANITIES OF INFRASTRUCTURE

The attempt is to look beyond conventional cultural objects and examine the systems that make everyday life possible—roads, railways, ports, electricity, water, logistics, data networks and other infrastructures. Infrastructure is often experienced as background, yet it profoundly shapes mobility, access, memory, identity, power and everyday life. In particular, the session will explore how urban spaces and literary representations can be read together: how cities are imagined through their built environments, how infrastructures produce particular forms of belonging and exclusion, and how literature can make visible the social and cultural consequences of infrastructural development.

SESSION 02: RESOURCE PERSON

Dr. Gigy Alex

Associate Professor (English), Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram



TOPIC OF DISCUSSION: SENSORY HUMANITIES

It asks what becomes visible to research when we attend to smell, sound, touch, taste, bodily sensation and atmosphere as forms of cultural experience and evidence. Such an approach opens possibilities for investigating soundscapes, sensory memories, the smell and taste of places, touch and material culture, acoustic histories, and the sensory dimensions of caste, class, gender and space. It also encourages researchers to consider how bodies experience and remember places in ways that conventional textual analysis may overlook.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Research in Humanities is increasingly moving beyond the study of texts as isolated cultural artefacts towards the study of the material, sensory and spatial worlds in which human experience is produced. This workshop, “Emerging Research Trends in Humanities: Themes, Methods and Approaches,” brings together two compelling and relatively underexplored directions that invite scholars to rethink what constitutes a humanities object and how it can be studied. Rather than presenting established disciplinary approaches, the workshop foregrounds questions that emerge at the intersection of literature, urban studies, material culture, space, embodiment and the senses.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Faculty and academicians in the Humanities and allied disciplines
- Ph.D. scholars exploring new research directions
- Postgraduate students pursuing Humanities and interdisciplinary programmes
- Early-career researchers developing research projects and publications
- Researchers in allied fields such as Cultural Studies, Media Studies, Gender Studies, and Social Sciences
- Ph.D aspirants seeking to understand contemporary themes, methods, and approaches in Humanities research

REGISTRATION



- **Registration fee: ₹300 (inclusive of taxes).**
- **Last date for registration: 07 October 2026.**
- Registration link: <https://events.vit.ac.in/>
- Mode: Online
- **Platform: Google Meet**

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

- **Certificates of Participation (Digital)**
- **Workshop reading materials and a short reading list**

COORDINATORS & CONTACT

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WORKSHOP SESSIONS

10.00 am
to
10.30 am

INAUGURAL SESSION

Welcome Address
Presidential Address
Felicitation

10.30 am
to
12.30 pm

SESSION I

Dr. Dibyakusum Ray
THE HUMANITIES OF INFRASTRUCTURE

2.00 pm
to
4.00 pm

SESSION II

Dr. Gigy Alex
SENSORY HUMANITIES

4.00 pm
to
4.30 pm

SESSION III

FEEDBACK & VALIDICTORY

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chief Patron

Dr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT

Patrons

- Dr. Sankar Viswanathan, Vice President, VIT
- Dr. Sekar Vishwanathan, 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. 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>