



VIT®

Vellore Institute of Technology

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

OFFICE OF STUDENTS' WELFARE

# 5TH PILLAR VIT



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

-2023 EDITION-

# **Editor's note**

About two years ago, while creating my extensive list of clubs I would want to be a part of during my college journey, I stumbled upon 5th Pillar. To the first-year me, its mission and distinguished role as a socio-political NGO in a university immediately struck a chord.

As I embarked on my journey in this club, I noticed a shared mindset among all the members—the confidence to express (controversial) opinions without the fear of societal backlash. This thought process remains the biggest victory of 5P, for it is an uphill task to cultivate an environment where individuals can openly challenge societal norms and have enough trust within this community to express their ideas holistically.

When the board of 2023 took over from our predecessors, our objective was to continue this legacy of instilling a sense of awareness, empathy, and confidence in the community. It's easy to get lost in the rigours of college life, with our focus primarily revolving around projects, exams, grades, and placements. However, we've always strived to motivate others to engage with matters beyond these confined boundaries—to address concerns that will shape countless lives in the future.

The pages of the publication summarize the monumental journey of the club—the events, the glories, and the celebrations. But my primary aim is to honour the dedication of the entire community, often unseen. Therefore, this newsletter is an extension of heartfelt gratitude to the 5th Pillar family, whose contributions made this tenure a resounding success.

As our tenure draws to a close, we hope our efforts have steered the club in the right direction. We hope we did justice to the responsibility entrusted to us. Finally, we hope that, just like the first-year me, we were able to motivate many more people to be part of this beautiful community.

Regards,  
Diya Ramani  
Editorial Head (2023-24)



## **Welcome message**

As we step into the new year, let's take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements that have paved the way for us. The beginning of this tenure threw us into the midst of five grand events at Riviera—an enormous task and an even greater responsibility. Through unwavering dedication, seamless teamwork, and the guidance of our seniors, we not only met the challenge but turned those events into resounding successes.

Moving ahead, let's celebrate the fact that we've surpassed all previous records by successfully organizing 75 events this year alone. In addition, we migrated our blog page to a newer and better platform and welcomed numerous collaborations and international guest speakers. This remarkable feat is a reflection of our commitment to excellence.

With each stride, we shape a legacy to inspire generations. Here's to a year of challenges, triumphs, and the unwavering spirit defining our club. Cheers to the journey ahead!!

# Message from the Faculty Coordinator

Fellow VITians,

As the Faculty Coordinator for Fifth Pillar VIT, it's an honor to share a glimpse of our club's journey. Fifth Pillar has been actively encouraging, enabling, and empowering every citizen to create a more ethical and just society. Our primary goal is to strengthen democracy and we believe that simple acts starting from following traffic rules and helping others navigate bribe-free processes can have a sound impact. We conduct various programs and initiatives to create awareness of social responsibilities and laws that protect us. We have been organizing great events with groundbreaking impact for more than a decade. We are always open to addressing your fascination with our work. We advocate the Right to Information (RTI) as a powerful tool for achieving transparency and accountability. Our alumni have gone on to achieve remarkable heights in various fields and stand as testaments to the values instilled by the Fifth Pillar. To the VIT community, I urge you to join us in this noble endeavor. Every small step has the potential to make a huge difference. Let us work together for a nation where integrity thrives and progress flourishes.



With Warm Regards,

Dr. M. S. Jagadeesh Kumar  
Faculty Coordinator, Fifth Pillar VIT

## Club Overview



### Motto

Encourage, enable, and empower every citizen of India to eliminate corruption on all levels of society.

### Goals

We aim to educate, promote civic engagement, and tackle societal issues for a more informed and equitable society.

# Club Achievements

## TENURE HIGHLIGHTS

75  
EVENTS

7  
COLLABORATIONS

25+  
ARTICLES

### Events Department

- Topped number of events chart (among all clubs and chapters) with 26 events till July, 2023.
- Conducted 75 events through the tenure 2023-24.
  - Total events: 75
  - Riviera 2023: 5
  - Gravitas 2023: 1
  - Collaborative events: 4
- Conducted various types of events like informative sessions, group discussions, quizzes, hackathons, ideathons, etc. and updated all the report on time.
- Wide range of topics were taken in the events, which included topics that were severely stigmatized and required utmost awareness.
- Few events had national level external participants hinting at our outreach capabilities.
- Specialized events were conducted for the below mentioned contexts:
  - Campaign Against Substance Abuse
  - Alumni Event
  - Sustainable Developments Goals
  - Outreach Event
- A series called "Law and You" was started to create awareness on various aspects of legal system.

### Editorial Department

- Migration of Fifth Pillar's Blog page from WordPress to medium, preserving all the 200+ articles.
- Published 25+ new articles.
- Instituted a yearly Newsletter.
- Published the works proposed in our hackathons and ideathons after review.
- Link for new Blog: <https://medium.com/@5thpillar>

### Extracurricular Course

- Fifth Pillar offers an Extra-Curricular Course titled "Building Blocks of Democracy".
- The course of Fall 2022-23 was attended by 28 students.
- The course of Fall 2023-24 is being attended by 81 students.
- The students were actively engaged and were encouraged to participate actively in club activities.
- All were motivated to participated in discussions and write articles, which were published in Fifth Pillar's Blog.



# Committees

- Fifth Pillar has started four internal committees to encourage deep discussions on specific interests.
- The four committees are:
  - International Organizations and Military Committee
  - Indian history and heritage Committee
  - Legal Committee
  - Anti-Corruption Committee
- The organization of committees are as follows:

Role	Dept	Name	Reg no
Hon advisor	Legal, International org and military	Eshan Bajaj	20BIT0191
Hon advisor	Anti-Corruption, Indian history & heritage	Saai Pranav Reddy Duvvuru	20MSI0021
Exec Director- committees	ALL	Ayush Patra	21BCL0073
President	International Organizations and Military Committee	Gaurpriya Singh Roy	21BIT0309
VP	International Organizations and Military Committee	Neelanjan Mukherjee	21BCE0175
President	Indian history and heritage Committee	Jayishnu agarwal	21BEC0308
VP	Indian history and heritage Committee	Rishabh Dhariwal	21BEI0014
President	Legal Committee	Rishi	21BCI0104
VP	Legal Committee	Yash Singhal	21BCE3719
President	Anti-Corruption Committee	Anmol Gupta	21BEC0928
VP	Anti-Corruption Committee	Arnav khare	21BCE2092

# Collaborators

5th Pillar collaborated with 7 esteemed collaborators in the 2022-23 tenure.

## **NAMMA CHAI**

- Namaa Chai is an innovative tea shop started by a VIT Alumni.
- They have taken sustainable initiatives like BISCUIT CHAI, where tea was served in biscuit cups.
- They acted as a sponsor for the event Fairs of Freedom in Riviera 2023 and provided vouchers for all the participants.



## **E2PC**

- E2PC stand for Environment & Energy Protection Club.
- It is the official eco club of VIT and they work at a ground level, to protect and conserve "the third rock" from the sun.
- They collaborated with us for an ideathon, Policies & Prototypes.



## **IGEN**

- IGEN stands for The Institution of Green Engineers (IGEN).
- They connect green professionals worldwide, working towards SDG goals and providing solutions for a sustainable greener future through the 9colour nonagon VIBBGGYOR society.
- They are a UNDESA NGO, 12A, 80G, CSR, and NITI Aayog accredited institution, and working to help the environment green.
- They acted as an external collaborator for the event EcoVision Hack in Gravitas 2023.



## **IEEE EMBS**

- IEEE Engineering in Medicine and biology Society (IEEE-EMBS) is the world's largest international society of biomedical engineers.
- Chapter benefits both humanity and its members by: advancing medicine and biology through the application of engineering sciences and technology, promoting the profession of biomedical engineering, fostering professional development.
- They acted as an internal collaborator for the event EcoVision Hack in Gravitas 2023.



## **IEE EDS**

- IEEE Electron Devices Society (IEEE-EDS) works on promoting excellence in the field of electron devices for the benefit of humanity.
- The field of interest for EDS includes all electron and ion-based devices, in their classical or quantum states.
- They acted as an internal collaborator for the event EcoVision Hack in Gravitas 2023.



## **IEEE RAS**

- The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society's objectives are scientific, literary and educational in character.
- The Society strives for the advancement of the theory and practice of robotics and automation engineering and science and of the allied arts and sciences, and for the maintenance of high professional standards among its members.
- They collaborated with us for a panel discussion, Robotics for a More Just and Equitable Future.



## **WORTH Trust**

- WORTH Trust established in 1969, is a unique Self-Sustaining Social Organisation in the service of Specially abled.
- It was established to impart vocational training and assist in the social and economic rehabilitation of all categories of persons with disabilities
- They acted as a collaborator for our outreach event, Let's Cherish. Allowed us to conduct an engaging event where we took the kids through a magical journey of Painting, Storytelling and Fun games.



## Our Guests

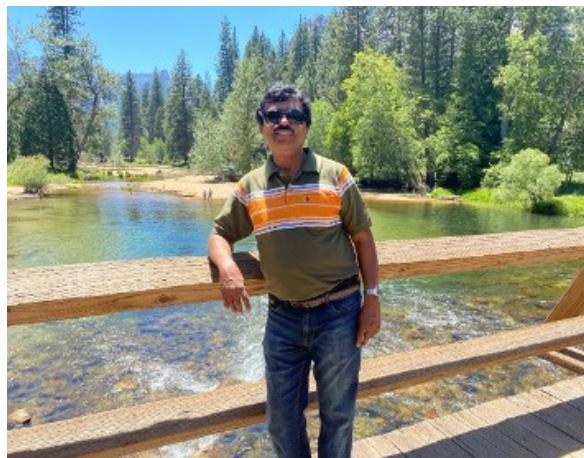
### Er. Indrani Radhakrishnan - Memories From The VEC Days

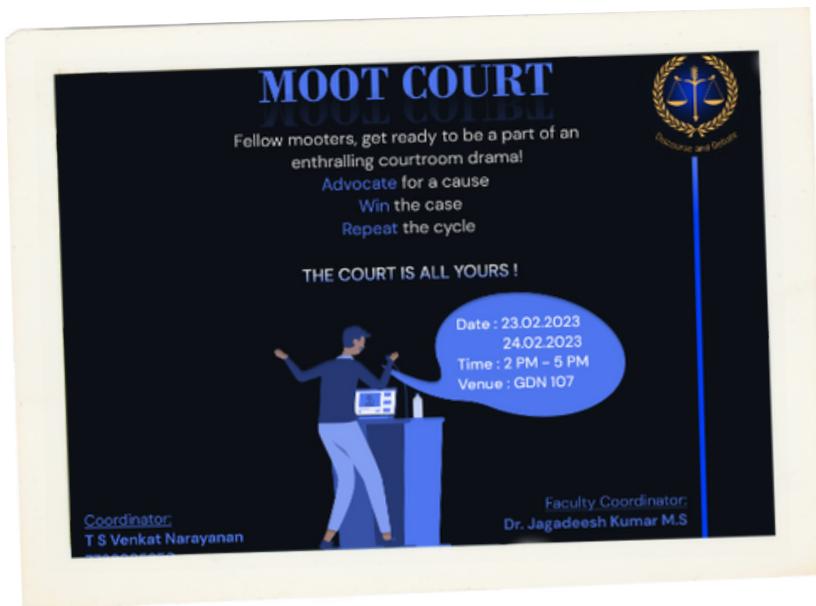
Er. Indrani Radhakrishnan has been working as a Software Engineer in senior and lead roles in the Washington DC area for the past 25 years. After graduating from the then Vellore Engineering College she pursued her Master's in Computer Science at the University of Maryland. Er. Indrani mobilized local VIT alumni and helped form the first VIT Alumni Chapter in Washington DC which was inaugurated by our Honorable Chancellor. She has been actively involved in Washington Tamil Sangam as its vice president and also FETNA partaking in various community activities.



### Dr. B. Radhakrishnan - CASA: Substance Abuse A Global Concern

Dr. B. Radhakrishnan has been involved in basic and applied research in medicine for the past 25 years. After graduating as a Doctor in Veterinary Medicine from Madras Veterinary College, he pursued his Master's in Animal Science at Oklahoma State University; then pursued a Ph. D. in Molecular Biology at Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington DC; he later joined the faculty there. He later collaborated with the National Institute of Health and currently with the State of Maryland Department of Health with the current focus on health policy research and epidemiology of disease patterns in Maryland state.





**Moot Court** was a mock representation of Indian Supreme Court, where cases were given to the participants who acted as lawyers in front of a jury.

**Ficcom** was a trivia-based event on famous shows or fictional characters. Participants dressed as their favourite character and debated. It also involved many more fun games.



**People Mixer** was an exciting event where participants were made to interact, socialize and find new people. Many fun activities were conducted after dividing participants into teams.



**Treasure Hunt** was a fun event where participants were given socio-political riddles and on solving them they got clues to find the following riddles. It spanned across the campus.

**Fairs of Freedom** was a novel event that simulated electoral processes, administrative procedures, and other democratic practices. It offered an opportunity for participants to create their own party, contest elections, and form governments.



## 5P AT GRAVITAS '23



**EcoVision Hack** was a two-day hackathon guided by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The main motive was to bring together SDG Visionaries for our Common Future to address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation.



## Shristi Gupta (23MIS0263)

Participating in the 5th Pillar club's event centered around Sustainable Development Goals was a truly enriching experience. The organizers demonstrated exceptional dedication and expertise, ensuring a well-organized and impactful event. 5th Pillar stood out for its commitment to driving positive change, making it a commendable platform for those passionate about contributing to a sustainable future. Kudos to the organizers for a stellar event that left a lasting impression.

## Shivanshi Mishra (21BCI0160)

I'd like to commend the Fifth Pillar Club for orchestrating the commendable "Policies and Prototypes" event at our college. This gathering seamlessly bridged the gap between theoretical policies and tangible prototypes, offering attendees a firsthand experience of innovation's transformative power. The event's emphasis on experiential learning, coupled with insightful panel discussions, highlighted the intricate relationship between technology, policies, and real-world applications. Kudos to the club's dedication in fostering intellectual growth and inspiring us all to push the boundaries of innovation. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Fifth Pillar Club for their unwavering commitment and exemplary execution of the "Policies and Prototypes" event. Your efforts have not only enriched our academic landscape but have also instilled a sense of purpose and direction among the attendees.



## Mrs. V. Jayabharathi, Principal(School) and Head(Rehab), WORTH Trust



On behalf of the Worth Trust, we appreciate Fifth Pillar VIT for organizing an outreach event for 50 specially-abled kids of our School in our campus on 25/11/2023 from 10 AM to 12 PM. The kids enjoyed the event conducted by them which included painting, storytelling, and fun games. Their commitment to creating an inclusive and joyful experience for these children has left a lasting impact on their lives and their families. We are truly grateful for their commitment to making a difference in the lives of specially-abled kids. Your event was a resounding success, and we are confident that its positive impact on the children and their families will be felt for years to come. Special thanks to the Vellore Institute of Technology for encouraging students to conduct such events. We look forward to more such events.

# Message from the Ex-board

As I sit down to pen this message for the newly inaugurated newsletter, I am filled with nostalgia and gratitude for the incredible and fulfilling journey I have had as a member of Fifth Pillar. I had the opportunity of serving as the chairperson of Fifth Pillar for the tenure 2021-2022.

Fifth Pillar will always be one of my most cherished memories from college. This club has been more than just an "extra-curricular activity" to put on my resume; it has been a transformative experience, where I found a family away from home. The bonds I built with my seniors and contemporaries while working as a junior core member, and thereafter the friendships I formed with my juniors while serving as the chairperson are ever-lasting. My time at Fifth Pillar started as an ambitious junior core member participating in late-night brainstorming sessions on g-meets, in awe of her seniors who worked tirelessly to make every event a success, and ended with countless night slips where we convened in the SMV corridors to work on our events for Riviera.

Today, the legacy of the club is carried forward by the current board of Fifth Pillar, a group of talented and hardworking individuals that I am extremely proud of. Truth be told, before Riviera I was quite doubtful whether we would be able to find a board competent enough to pass the torch to. Little did I know, that somewhere between all the screaming at the Expos and the running around campus for DSW approval, we would find the ideal board to continue the legacy of Fifth Pillar. I want to extend my heartfelt encouragement and admiration for the commitment and passion with which the new board has worked for 5P. Their dedication to the club's mission of spreading socio-political awareness and their unwavering work ethic are truly commendable.

To end this message, I would like to encourage the new members to actively participate and contribute to the club's activities and remind the current board, that being part of Fifth Pillar is not just about executing events; it's about fostering an environment where individuals can grow, learn, and thrive. I have full confidence that under your leadership, the club will continue to flourish and reach new heights.

Slay hard.

Signing off,  
Shihij Hanjura  
Ex-Chairperson, Advisory Board, Fifth Pillar

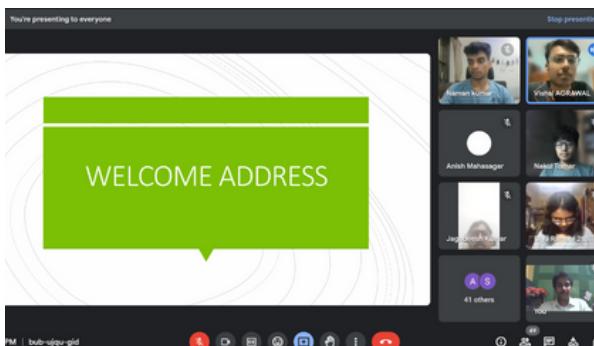
# Moments in Frames



Riviera 2023



Offline orientation session



5Ws on 5P (Online orientation session)



Policies and Prototypes ideathon



Gravitas 2023



Outreach event at Worth Trust

REACH OUT  
FOR A CHAT

**Get involved**

GET TO KNOW  
US BETTER



<https://www.facebook.com/5pvit>



<https://www.instagram.com/5pvit/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/5th-pillar/>

# SIGNING OFF

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Chairperson  
Varun Pandey



Vice-chairperson  
Sushil Krishnan



Events lead  
Naman Kumar



Secretary  
Muskan Sah



Co-secretary  
Nakul Tomar



Human Resource lead  
Samil Latiff



Editorial lead  
Diya Ramani



Design lead  
Aaryan Bansal



Outreach lead  
Saad Khan



Finance lead  
Sarthak Johri

## Honorary Members



Managing President  
Vishal Agarwal



Head of Operations  
T S N Venkat