



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**BITS-Pilani Hyderabad Campus**



# PhD Admission Open for 2023-2024 Semester I

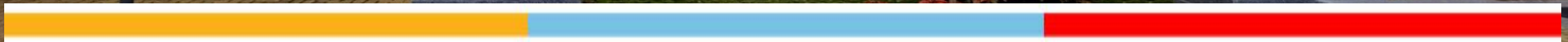
## Focus Areas

Urban Governance	Policy and Politics
Behavioural and Cognitive Science	Linguistics
Buddhist Philosophy	Philosophy of Religion
English Language Education	Educational Technology
Disability Studies	Medical Humanities
Urban Sociology	Sociology of Gender
Ocean Humanities	Indian Writing in English
Spiritual Poetry from India	Sustainable Happiness
Film Studies	Media Studies
Climate Change and Disaster Studies	Technology Studies
Comparative Literature	Indian Literatures



## Important Dates

Online Application Deadline	26 June 2023
Shortlist for Test/Interview	07 July 2023
Test/Interview	21 & 22 July 2023
Results	27 July 2023
Reporting for registration	08 August 2023





# An Overview of The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (2022-23)

## Programmes Offered

### Essential Course: Technical Report Writing

Develop skills in writing technical reports and making presentations

### Wide range of electives

Offer a wide range of more than 20 electives every semester in critical humanities, social sciences, and interdisciplinary studies

### Ph.D. Programme

- Full-time and part-time PhD scholars
- Funded by both from the institution and external agencies

## Activities

### Workshops

Round table discussion on International Mother Language Day 2023; Public Policy Workshop 2023

### Outreach Activity

Visit by DPS student for interaction with the faculty members and research scholars

### National Seminar Sponsored by National Commission for Women

Rights of Women with Disabilities: A Status Update

## Department Facilities

- Discussion Room: Seating capacity of 20+, with projector facility
- Department Lounge: Seating capacity of 15
- Department Mini Library: 50+ books and theses

- Language Lab: Projector, 10 computer machines
- Psychoacoustics Lab: Soundproof chamber
- Current affairs hotspot



## Regular Research Activities

- Discussion forum to engage with academics from within the department and outside
- Reading group for research scholars
- Research methods lecture series for research scholars

Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
2	5	8
Full-time - Ph.D. Scholars		Part-time - Ph.D. Scholars
21		10

## Research Activities

### Faculty members:

- 25 peer-reviewed journal publications
- 10 grants worth INR 6 crore 40 lakhs going on

### International Collaborations:

- RMIT University Australia (Joint PhD Programme)
- La Trobe University, Australia (Joint PhD Programme)
- University of Manchester, UK (Research collaboration)

### Research Talks:

- 23 talks by faculty members
- 27 presentations by research scholars

### Research Scholars' Contribution:

- 17 peer-reviewed journal publications

### Contact

**Prof. Shilpa Anand**, Head of Department  
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For the Department website (Scan QR Code)



## Details

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### Eligibility

- 55% or above in Masters
- Suitable match between academic background and proposed research area
- Available expertise in the department

### Selection Process

- Written exam followed by an interview
- M.Phil. and/or JRF holders are exempt from the written exam

### Institute Fellowship

**Institutional fellowship of INR 28,000 or 31,000** per month

### External Fellowship

*Candidates who have fellowships such as UGC-JRF, UGC-NFOBC, UGC-MANF, UGC-NFSC, UGC-NFST are encouraged to apply in all research areas that the department has expertise in*

### Detailed Advertisement

<https://www.bitsadmission.com/phd/index.aspx>

### Department Link

<https://universe.bits-pilani.ac.in/hyderabad/Languages/Languages>

### BITS PhD Admission Website

<https://www.bitsadmission.com/phd/main.aspx>

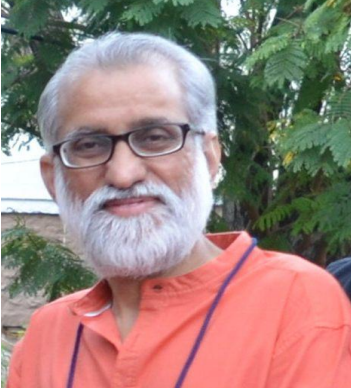


# Faculty

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## **T Vijay Kumar, Ph.D.**

Visiting Professor

Research Interest: Postcolonial literature, Indian fiction in English and in translation, Indian diaspora, Translation, and Multilingualism

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## **M.G. Prasuna, Ph.D.**

Professor

Research Interest: Comparative Literature, Diasporic Literature, Translation Studies, Women's Writing, Theatre and Film Studies, and Indian Writing in English.

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## **Shilpaa Anand, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor

Research Interests: Disability Studies, social and cultural histories of: disease conditions and illness experiences, systems of treatment and the politics of care.

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**Aruna Lolla, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor

Research Interest: Indian English Poetry, Indian Philosophy and Spiritual Studies including study of Mantras.

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**Maya Vinai, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor

Research Interest: Indian Fiction in English, Postcolonial Literature

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**Santosh Mahapatra, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor

Research Interest: Language teacher development, digital literacies and educational language policies.

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**Biswanath Dash, Ph.D.**

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Research Interest: Disaster Studies,  
Science and Technology Studies

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**Suchismita Satpathy, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Research Interest: Urban Sociology, urban  
segregation, smart cities and local bodies, right to  
city and citizenship, urban water issues, urban  
policy and governance

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**Lavanya Suresh, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Research Interest: Political Ecology,  
Decentralisation and Public  
Administration

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### **Pranesh Bhargava, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor

Research Interests: Behavioural cognitive neurosciences, Linguistics, Psychology

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### **A. K. Jayesh, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor

Research Interests: Metaphysics, Buddhist Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion

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### **Anhiti Patnaik, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor

Research Interests: Literature and Cultural Studies, Cultural Criminology, Digital Humanities, Queer Studies, Trauma Theory, Postmodernism, and Posthumanism

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### **Spandan Bhattacharya, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor

Research Interests: Indian regional cinemas, early cinema and its travel, print cultural formations around cinematic practices and new media labour.

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### **Harsh Mittal, Ph.D**

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Research Interests: Policy Studies, Urban Governance, Human Geography and Science and Technology Studies.

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### **Tony Sebastian**

Visiting Faculty

Research Interests: Comparative Literature, Literary and Narrative Theories, Gender and Queer Theory, Masculinity Studies, Queer Politics and Subcultures, Cultural Studies, Environmental Humanities, 1930s-50's Malayalam Literature

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## Full-time Scholars

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**REVATHY HEMACHANDRAN**

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**Areas of research interests:** Trauma Narratives, Malabar Rebellion, Post-colonial literature and Cultural Memory Studies.



**ROHIT JHA**

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**Areas of research interests:** Political Economy of City Expansion and Urban Space, Development Studies.



**ANWESHA MOHANTY**

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**Areas of research interests:** Political Ecology and Local Knowledge

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**AHMED SHABIN K.K**

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**Areas of research interests:** Censorship Studies, Resistance Narratives, Prison Narratives, Literary censorship, Mass media censorship



**ARCHITA MAJUMDER**

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**Areas of research interests:** ESL Teacher Professional Development, Online Communities of Practice



**SARITHA SASIDHARAN**

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**Areas of research interests:** Queer literature and gender

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**KRITHIKA NAMBIAR**

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**Areas of research interests:** Cognitive Psychology, Visual and Auditory Perception



**NANDANA R**

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**Areas of research interests:** Disability Studies, Media Studies, Cultural Studies



**AMRIT AMLAN PATTANAİK**

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**Areas of research interests:** Film Studies, Media Archeology, Visual Culture

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**Areas of research interests:** Film Studies, Criminology, Gender Studies



**ATI SRILEKHA**

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**Areas of research interests:** Public Policy, Urban Studies, Water Governance



**APURBA RAYCHOUDHURY**

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**Areas of research interests:** Disaster Politics, Climate Change, Multi-Hazard Warning Systems and Cyclones.

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**MUTHYALU ASHWINI**

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**Areas of research interests:**  
Multilingualism in Indian education,  
Policy analysis, Medium of instruction in  
education, Translanguaging



**RAVI BHUSHAN**

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**Areas of research interests:**  
Environmental justice, Urban Studies,  
Policy analysis



**PONNAPALLI SIRI VARSHINI**

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**Areas of research interests:** Political  
ecology, Aquaculture

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**CHHAYA VERMA**

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**Areas of research interests:** Indian Philosophy, Alienation



**CHERIYACHAN B. MATTAM**

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**Areas of research interests:** Science and Technology Studies, Discard Studies

## Part-time Scholars

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**Areas of research interests:** Disaster Management, Risk Reduction, Climate Change Studies



**M. CHANDRA SHEKHER**

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**Areas of research interests:** Public Health, Disabilities Studies, Visual Impairment and Social Entrepreneurship.



**MADHURI MATHUR**

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**Areas of research interests:** English Language Teaching



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**Areas of Research Interests:** Indian English Fiction, Mythic Fiction



**SAI RAM C V H S**

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**Areas of Research Interests:** Public Health, Maternal and Child Health



**SARIKA**

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**Areas of Research Interest:** Task Based Language Teaching

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**MAMTA KAUSHIK**

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**Areas of Research Interests:** Gender Studies, Medical Humanities, Disability Studies



**SUJITH K G**

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**Areas of Research Interests:** Computational Photography, Visual Culture, Photo Ethnography, Visual Anthropology, Cinema Studies



**GEETA MAGESH**

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**Areas of Research Interest:** Mental Health, Clinical Psychology

## Externally Funded Projects Sanctioned in 2022-2023



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Project Title	Funding	Role of the researcher
Swavalamban: A Co-constructed Online Professional Development Toolkit for English Language Teachers Working in Resource-constrained Schools in India	Agency: British Council Duration: 6 months Amount: £ 23,771	PI from India - Dr Santosh Mahapatra
Challenges to the scalability of women-led enterprises: A case study of the MSME units in Telangana State	Agency: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) India, Minor project 2022 Duration: 1 year Amount: INR 4,00,000	PI: Prof. Suchismita Satpathy Co-PI: Dr. Pranesh Bhargava, Dr. Thota Nagaraju
Aesthetics of Embodiment in Non-dominant Tamil Narrative Traditions	Agency: India Foundation for the Arts, 'Arts Research Grant' Amount: INR 4,00,000 Duration: 1.5 years	Co-PI: Prof. Shilpaa Anand PI: Dr. Hemachandran Karah at HSS, IIT Madras
Waste-to-Energy: Technology Integration for production of clean energy from organic waste	Agency: Department of Science and Technology (DST) Amount: INR.581,27,554 Duration: 4 years	Co-I: Prof. Lavanya Suresh PI: Prof. P Sankar Ganesh
Hydro SOS for the GBM Basin (Consultant)	Agency: World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Geneva Amount: US\$ 23,000	Prof. Biswanath Dash

## Academic Events in the Last Semester : Lectures

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Title of the event	Resource person	Date
The policy process of adopting environmental standards for coal plants in India: Accommodating transnational politics in the multiple streams framework	Dr. Harsh Mittal, Department of HSS, BITS-Pilani Hyderabad Campus	09 February 2023
From patchy traces to bold contours: Locating archival method in Bibi's Room	Dr. Nazia Akhtar, IIIT Hyderabad	22 February 2023
Canadian women's filmmaking 1990: The second wave goes surfing	Prof. Thomas Waugh, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada	1 March 2023
Re-positioning 'participation' in drinking water sector	Prof. Satyapriya Rout, University of Hyderabad	24 March 2023
Supporting climate resilience among the urban poor: Experiences from Honiara, Solomon Islands	Dr. Serene Ho, RMIT Australia	28 March 2023
Am I the Only Mind That Exists?	Dr. A.K. Jayesh, Dept. of HSS, BITS-Pilani Hyderabad Campus	13 April 2023
World building in graphic fiction	Jai Undurti, Journalist and Graphic novelist	21 April 2023

## Academic Events in the Last Semester: Workshops

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Title of the event	Resource person	Date of the talk
International Mother Language Day Roundtable	Prof Aditi Mukherjee, Prof Duggirala Vasanta, Prof Pingali Sailaja, Prof Surabhi Bharati	21 February 2023
Public Policy Workshop	Ms. Sujatha Rao, Former Secretary, Union Ministry of Health Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Telangana Government Prof. Aseem Prakash, TISS Hyderabad Prof. Nimushakavi Vasanthi, NALSAR University of Law Prof. Amir Ullah Khan, MCRHRDI Mr. Sandeep Paidi, KPMG	25 March 2023
Research Methodology Workshop	Prof. Vijay Kumar	19 April 2023
Graduate Research Seminar	Full-time and part-time research scholars of the department	27, 29 April and 2 May 2023