



DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
**National Institute of Technology
Tiruchirappalli**

in association with

DEPARTMENT OF NEURODEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCES
**National Institute of Speech and Hearing
Thiruvananthapuram**

ONE DAY VIRTUAL CONCLAVE

**Equity and Inclusivity in Education:
Addressing Specific Learning Disabilities**

23 October 2026

National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli

National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli (NIT Trichy) founded in 1964 is a public technical and research university in Tamil Nadu, India. It is one of India's oldest technical universities and is located at Tiruchirappalli in a campus of 800 acres. The university is recognized as an Institute of National Importance by the Government of India. The university focuses exclusively on science, technology, engineering, management, architecture and humanities. National Institutional Ranking Framework ranked the university 1st among the NITs in India in 2025. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry named the university as the "University of the Year" in 2017. The university has academic and research collaborations with universities and research centres in India and abroad including the United States and the United Kingdom and is undergoing accelerated growth through the expansion of its academic programmes, research initiatives, and international collaborations.

Department of Humanities & Social Sciences

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences has been in existence since 2004. The department is known for independent interdisciplinary research and for a dynamic collaboration between faculty and students. To meet the existing demands of industry, business, public and private organizations, academic and human services, the department has constantly striven for a practical curriculum with a high degree of professional relevance, enabling students to face real-time challenges. Accordingly, the department has been offering a wide range of core and elective courses to undergraduates and graduates. The department has been offering a full-fledged Ph.D. program since 2004 and has produced quality research work in newer areas of Humanities and Social Sciences. Recognizing the growing demand for humanities-based courses, the department also offers minor degree courses in Economics and in Language/Literature. In 2020, the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences started an MA programme in English Language and Literature. Faculty in the department are committed teachers engaged in continuous research in niche areas like Language and Genetics, Health Humanities, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, English and Employability Skills, Critical Pedagogy and Aviation English.

National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH), Thiruvananthapuram

The National Institute of Speech & Hearing (NISH) was established as a Society under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific, and Charitable Societies Registration Act of 1955 by the Government of Kerala through G.O. (Ms) No. 7/97/SWD dated 11 March 1997. NISH is a comprehensive, multi-purpose institution dedicated to the identification, intervention, rehabilitation, and education of individuals with disabilities. The institute aims to nurture world-class professionals with high levels of proficiency and competency, while also delivering advanced clinical services and developing innovative intervention models in the field of disability. NISH is widely recognized for offering inclusive and integrated post-secondary education for persons with disabilities, alongside cutting-edge research in disability studies and rehabilitation sciences. NISH functions from its state-of-the-art campus at Thiruvananthapuram, providing world-class infrastructure to support its mission. With over two decades of pioneering service, NISH has set national benchmarks in inclusive education, research, and rehabilitation, transforming lives and shaping a society where individuals with disabilities can thrive with dignity and confidence.

Department of Neurodevelopmental Sciences

The Department of Neurodevelopmental Sciences caters services to all neurodevelopmental disorders. The department aims to detect, intervene in, and research neurodevelopmental disorders. To attain these goals, the department engages in the following activities: raising public awareness, conducting multidisciplinary assessments, developing individualized treatment plans, empowering families and society, promoting research and evidence-based practices, and supporting school programs. The department comprises several specialised services, such as the Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders Unit (ASRD), the Child Language Disorders Unit (CLD), the Global Developmental Delay Unit (GDD), the Pediatric Neurogenic Speech and Swallowing Clinic (P-NSS), and the Language and Literacy Enhancement and Research Net – Lab (LLEaRN-Lab).

About the Programme

Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs) are neurodevelopmental disorders that affect a child's ability to acquire and use academic skills such as reading, writing, and mathematics. It includes conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia, which affect approximately 10% of Indian school-going children, yet they remain widely misunderstood and underdiagnosed. As a result, many children with SLD are unfairly labelled as lazy, careless, or unintelligent, when in reality they process information differently and need appropriate instructional support to reach their full potential. Recognizing the importance of addressing diverse learning needs, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions an inclusive and equitable education system that nurtures every learner's unique potential. However, significant gaps persist in the awareness, early identification, and educational support for individuals with SLD in the Indian context. This conclave aims to bring together educators, psychologists, parents, and policy advocates to increase awareness and understanding of Specific Learning Disabilities. Through a series of expert talks and discussions, the programme aims to explore the current state of awareness, assessment tools, policies, intervention strategies, and best practices for supporting individuals with SLD, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

Registration Details

- There is a non-refundable registration fee of INR 1000 for this One-Day Virtual Conclave.
- On completion, participants will receive e-certificates.
- After the payment, participants should fill up the online application form by using the link given below with all required details on or before October 20, 2026.

Click here to register

<https://forms.gle/NUKtJDxa3nHTmSkS8>

OUR PATRON



DR. G. AGHILA
Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli

PROGRAMME CONVENORS



DR V.K. KARTHIKA
NIT Tiruchirappalli



DR. SUJA K KUNNATH
NISH Thiruvananthapuram

OUR PANEL OF SPEAKERS



DR. JAYANTHI NARAYAN
(Retd.), NIEPID, Secunderabad



MS. RATHI GOPINATH
Aster MIMS, Calicut



DR. RAMAA S
(Retd.), RIE, NCERT, Mysore



DR. SUJA K KUNNATH
NISH, Thiruvananthapuram



MS. FARIDA RAJ
Centre for Special Education,
Secunderabad



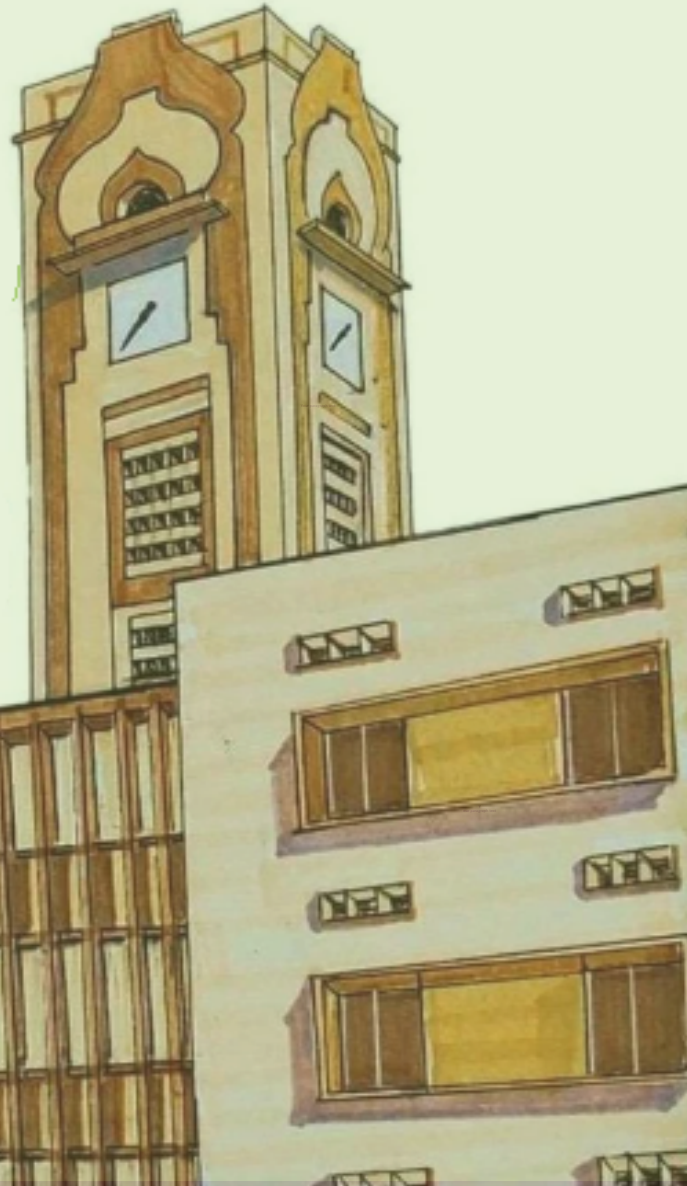
MS. NIVEDITHA B WARRIER
St. Joseph's College for Women
(Autonomous), Alappuzha

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Topic	Speaker
23/10/2026	9.30 – 10.30	Specific Learning Disability: An Introduction	Dr. Suja K Kunnath Professor and Principal, Department of Neurodevelopmental Sciences, National Institute of Speech and Hearing, Thiruvananthapuram
23/10/2026	10.45 – 11.45	Identification and Interventions for SLD	Ms. Rathi Gopinath Pediatric Learning Disability Therapist at Aster Malabar Institute of Medical Sciences, Calicut and Founder of SHISHYA Learning Centre
23/10/2026	12.00 – 13.00	Status of Research Studies on Specific Learning Disabilities in India	Dr. Ramaa S Former Professor of Special Education and Dean (Academic) Regional Institute of Education, NCERT, Mysore
23/10/2026	14.00 – 15.00	Specific Learning Disabilities: Current Status and the Way Forward in the Indian Context	Dr. Jayanthi Narayan Deputy Director (Retired), National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, Secunderabad, and Former Visiting Professor of Inclusive Education at the University of Northampton, UK
23/10/2026	15.15 – 16.15	How can parents support children with SLD?	Ms. Farida Raj Special Educator, Author, Centre for Special Education, Secunderabad
23/10/2026	16:30 – 17.15	Living with SLD: A Personal Journey	Ms. Niveditha B Warriar Assistant Professor, PG Department of English, St. Joseph’s College for Women (Autonomous), Alappuzha

Equity and Inclusivity in Education: Addressing Specific Learning Disabilities

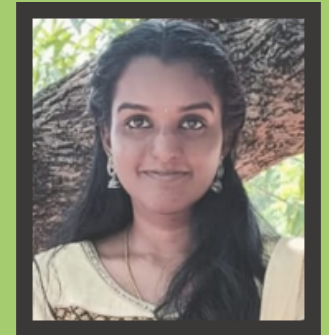
23 October 2026



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