

Personalised learning through AI is the future, says VIT vice-president

Sekar Viswanathan says VIT has been adopting innovative AI-based tools and systems to enhance the overall learning experience for students. He also underscores the importance of updating faculty members with technology to enlighten students about various developments

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Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) is actively working towards integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into the education sector, especially for personalised learning, as the future of academic advancement, VIT vice-president Sekar Viswanathan said at *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026, hosted by *The Hindu*, presented by VIT, and co-presented by Sify Technologies, in Chennai on Thursday.

Noting that the institution has been adopting innovative AI-based tools and systems to enhance the overall learning experience for students, he said the faculty also need to be updated with technology to enlighten students about various developments.

Knowledge sessions

In a conversation with Ramya Kannan, Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), *The Hindu*, on 'From Classrooms to Cosmos', Mr. Sekar elaborated on various facilities, such as a Teaching Learning Centre of Excellence and faculty deve-



Focus on future: VIT vice-president Sekar Viswanathan in conversation with Ramya Kannan, Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), *The Hindu*, at the Tech Summit 2026. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

lopment centres, where faculty members are encouraged to attend knowledge sessions on Agentic AI and AI in solar energy. Faculty training is key to providing quality education, he said.

Responding to a question on using AI and Internet of Things (IoT) in various disciplines, he said non-engineering schools also get the advantage of technology. For instance, law school students learn

about cyber security law and AI in law, and agriculture students are exposed to drone technology and remote sensing in agriculture and smart farming. "We make sure that AI is used in every subject, and it is the common denominator so that students gain domain expertise and also learn to integrate technology in all fields," he said.

Highlighting programmes like curriculum for applied learning and

adaptive curriculum for excellence, Mr. Sekar said students are allowed to study other subjects apart from their discipline. For instance, a mechanical engineering student can learn marketing or specialise in IoT. "We allow programme migration. Multi-disciplinary education will increase their employability," he said.

Digital divide

Answering a question on

digital divide and limitations to students' access to technology, he said VIT has started online courses to reach out to students in remote areas. The country has also made significant progress in providing technological access to students, he added.

Appreciating the State government's scheme to provide free laptops to students and the Centre's policy to reduce the cost of bandwidth, Mr. Sekar said the government must ensure network reach in remote, hilly areas. Underlining the need for providing affordable higher education to more youngsters, he said the government must increase funding for education, as private institutions have their limits in extending scholarships. Programmes such as the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship must reach all institutions. The government must adopt a liberal approach, allowing institutions to open more campuses and increase the intake of students.

Relevance of hackathons

To a question about the relevance of mentorship and hackathons at educational institutions, Mr. Sekar cit-

ed examples at VIT, wherein hackathons are conducted as assessment tools and startups are funded. Students are encouraged to solve problems provided by industries as part of their course and this, in turn, develops entrepreneurship. What starts as simple problem-solving in a classroom leads to the creation of startups through the Technology Business Incubator at VIT, and eventually, the betterment of society.

Collaborative initiatives

Elaborating on collaborative initiatives with the industry, he said close connect with the industries ensure better job prospects for students and prepare them for reality. Besides modules taught by industry experts, students learn soft skills for better employability. VIT also offers programmes for industry professionals.

Later, answering a question on the education sector's response to pandemic resilience by N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group, Mr. Sekar said VIT switched to live online education and provided device and network access to students.