



St. Vincent College
(Affiliated to Savtribai Phule Pune University)
Pune -411037

Title of the Event	Agro tourism and entrepreneurship tour to Meher retreat by the staff and students		
Date of the Event	2 nd April 2025	Place of the event	Meher Retreat, Yavat
Objectives of the Event	• To provide students with first-hand exposure to the functioning and business operations of an agro-tourism venture. • To foster understanding of sustainable and rural-based entrepreneurial models that combine agriculture with tourism.		
Name/s of the Resource Persons	Dr. Franklin Salvi & Dr. Gilbi John.		
A short narration of the program			
On 2nd April 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune organized a field and industrial visit to Meher Retreat, an agro-tourism-based resort located in Yavat, approximately an hour's drive from the city. This visit was part of the college’s academic initiative to expose students to alternative, sustainable business models in the tourism and agricultural sectors. Students along with faculty members, participated in the visit, which was designed to offer a hands-on learning experience in rural entrepreneurship, sustainable agriculture, and tourism management. Meher Retreat, set amidst lush greenery and natural water bodies, is an exemplary model of agro-tourism, where agriculture meets leisure and education. Upon arrival, the students were welcomed by the resort team, followed by a guided tour of the facilities. The tour included visits to organic farms, dairy units, rainwater harvesting systems, vermicompost pits, and food processing units. Students had the opportunity to witness how local resources and traditional knowledge are harnessed to offer eco-friendly, culturally rooted, and economically viable experiences for tourists. The resort’s management team conducted an interactive session where they explained the business model of agro-tourism, its revenue streams, marketing strategies, employment generation, and the integration of farming with hospitality services. Discussions also touched upon seasonal tourism trends, customer engagement, challenges faced by rural tourism ventures, and the use of social media in promoting such enterprises. Students asked thoughtful questions and gained insights into how agro-tourism bridges the urban-rural divide while promoting sustainable livelihoods.			



St. Vincent College
(Affiliated to Savtribai Phule Pune University)
Pune -411037

In addition to the academic insights, the visit included leisure activities such as tractor rides, boating, and traditional Maharashtrian meals, providing students with a well-rounded and enjoyable learning experience. Faculty members noted that this outing offered a rare blend of experiential learning, cultural exposure, and practical business understanding in a non-classroom setting.

The visit to Meher Retreat proved to be an enriching and enjoyable academic excursion, allowing students to connect theoretical concepts with practical realities while encouraging a broader perspective on rural innovation and sustainable business development.

Name of the Collaborating Agency	Meher Retreat, Yavat.
Learning Outcomes of the Event for the Participants	Learning Outcomes of the Event for the Participants: • Students understood the components of agro-tourism, including its operational structure, marketing, and sustainability aspects. • They developed an appreciation for rural entrepreneurship and learned how innovative business models can empower local communities.
Learning Outcomes for the Organizing team	The organizing team gained valuable experience in coordinating multi-faceted academic excursions, enhancing their planning, logistics management, and collaboration skills. They learned to align field visits with curriculum objectives while ensuring student engagement and safety. Additionally, the team developed stronger partnerships with external stakeholders and deepened their understanding of sustainable tourism models for future academic integration.
No. of Participants	Staff and Students of St. Vincent College.
Faculty in Charge	Dr. Franklin Salvi & Dr. Gilbi John.
Documents Attached	1. Attendance Sheet 2. Geotag photographs 3. Resume of resource persons if any 4. Copy of remuneration paid if any 5. Notice of the event 6. Thank you letter to the resource persons



St. Vincent College
(Affiliated to Savtribai Phule Pune University)
Pune -411037

Photographs





St. Vincent College
(Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University)
Pune -411037

