



# Streams

Newsletter

ST. VINCENT COLLEGE

August 2025

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST 2025 EDITION OF “STREAMS”

Dear Students, Faculty, Alumni, and Well-Wishers,

As the monsoon settles into its rhythm and the academic year finds its stride, August 2025 at St. Vincent College of Commerce, Pune, unfolded as a month rich in learning, reflection, celebration, and service. From thought-provoking **seminars on Artificial Intelligence** and creative careers to solemn remembrances of our nation's past and joyous displays of talent and unity — this month truly embodied our college's commitment to holistic, value-based education.

We began the month by **demystifying ChatGPT** and exploring the ethical frontiers of AI, not once but twice — first through an in-house tech talk and later via an engaging session by the Sambhav Foundation. These events equipped our Mass Communication and Commerce students with not just knowledge, but critical awareness of how technology is reshaping their future professions. Mid-month, we honored the victims of the 1947 Partition through participation in reflective workshops — both at S.P. College and on S.P.P.U campus — reminding our students that history must be remembered to build a more compassionate and united India.

Health and well-being remained central to our priorities. A two-day **Health Checkup Drive** with Meera Hospital offered students vital screenings and candid conversations on mental health, social media, and personal hygiene — especially tailored for young adults navigating today's complex world. Meanwhile, our **NSS unit planted 1,000 saplings** in Bhojdari village under the touching theme “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam,” blending environmental action with cultural reverence.

**Career guidance** took center stage with seminars on Aviation, Entrepreneurship, and Creative Industries — each designed to open doors beyond traditional paths. Poise Academy introduced BA students to the dynamic world of airport operations; Action DNA ignited entrepreneurial thinking in Commerce students; and ARH Design Academy's Mr. Ajinkya Harshey inspired future designers, architects, and fashion creators with practical roadmaps to success. For our female students, “The Job Factory” offered free, placement-assured training in IT, retail, and accounting — a powerful step toward economic empowerment.

Our students shone brightly too. Mr. Omkar Pawar brought home 2<sup>nd</sup> rank in the intercollegiate “Commerce Through the Ages” competition at MIT College — a proud institutional moment. Meanwhile, Mr. Aditya Jadhav, a 3-time University Boxing Champion, now mentors young athletes whose victories echo his legacy. The launch of our Mentor-Mentee Program on 22<sup>nd</sup> August further strengthened our commitment to personalized student growth, ensuring no learner walks their academic journey alone.

Cultural spirit soared on Independence Day, as veteran **Mr. George Judah hoisted the flag and students performed patriotic tributes.** The **“Cup of Joy”** football tournament that followed brought together students, staff, alumni, and Jesuit community members in a beautiful display of intergenerational camaraderie. And for those with artistic flair, the **Talent Hunt** on 13<sup>th</sup> August offered a stage to shine — whether through dance, music, or beatboxing — as we begin assembling teams for inter-college events.

Our **AICUF students** journeyed to rural Ahmednagar for a transformative immersion in watershed management, witnessing firsthand how communities like Hivre Korda turned ecological crisis into self-reliant success. Simultaneously, others attended the National Leadership Program in Bengaluru, deepening their understanding of human rights and citizenship — truly “glocalizing” their faith and action.

As we close this month’s chapter, we are reminded that education at St. Vincent is not confined to classrooms or textbooks. It lives in the questions students ask, the trees they plant, the matches they play, the histories they honor, and the futures they dare to design.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant, purposeful community.

Here’s to many more months of learning, growing, and making a difference — together.

## Activities

### Seminar on ChatGPT

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024, St. Vincent College, Pune, organized an insightful guest lecture titled “What’s Really Happening Behind ChatGPT? & Its Use Cases in Day-to-Day Life” for its First Year B.Com Mass Communication students. Hosted by College.dev, the tech talk was held in the Digital Lab located within the college library and commenced at 8:15 a.m. The session aimed to deepen students’ understanding of artificial intelligence, particularly focusing on ChatGPT—a groundbreaking language model developed by OpenAI. The lecture provided a comprehensive overview of the technology behind ChatGPT, including the workings of Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPT), Natural Language Processing (NLP), and machine learning algorithms that enable the model to generate human-like text. Students learned how ChatGPT is trained on vast datasets and fine-tuned for conversational interactions, distinguishing it from traditional rule-based chatbots. The speaker also highlighted practical applications of AI in everyday life, such as content creation, academic research, email drafting, customer service, and digital marketing—areas highly relevant to mass communication students. Special emphasis was placed on the transformative impact of AI on media, journalism, and public relations, while also addressing critical concerns like misinformation, bias, data privacy, and the ethical use of AI-generated content. Attendance was mandatory, and the session saw active participation from students, many of whom engaged in a lively Q&A discussion, asking pertinent questions about the role of AI in replacing human roles, verifying AI-generated information, and maintaining authenticity in communication.



## NSS Students in Partition Remembrance Day Workshop in SP College, Pune

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025, five student volunteers from the NSS (National Service Scheme) unit of St. Vincent College, Pune, actively participated in a thought-provoking workshop titled “Partition Horrors Remembrance Day: A Day of Remembrance and Reflection”, organized at S.P. College, Pune. The event was conducted in commemoration of the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, observed annually on 14<sup>th</sup> August to honour the millions who suffered during the 1947 partition of India. The workshop aimed to educate young minds about one of the most traumatic chapters in India’s history—marked by large-scale displacement, violence, and loss of life—while fostering values of peace, unity, and communal harmony. The session began with a solemn tribute to the survivors and victims of the partition, followed by a series of presentations, documentary screenings, and expert talks by historians and social activists. The speakers highlighted personal narratives and survivor testimonies, bringing to life the human cost of partition and emphasizing the importance of remembering history to prevent future divisions. The NSS students from St. Vincent College engaged attentively throughout the workshop, participating in group discussions and reflective activities that encouraged critical thinking about the consequences of communal hatred and the significance of national integration. They also contributed to a collective pledge reaffirming their commitment to promoting peace, empathy, and social cohesion in society.



## The College Newsletter STREAMS officially launched for 2025-26

The College Newsletter, titled “STREAMS”, was officially launched at the beginning of August 2025, marking a significant milestone in the academic and communicative initiatives of St. Vincent College, Pune. Introduced as a dynamic platform for information and engagement, STREAMS is dedicated to the academic year 2025–26 and aims to keep students, faculty, alumni, and other stakeholders well-informed about the diverse activities, achievements, and developments within the college community. The launch of the newsletter reflects the institution’s commitment to fostering transparency, strengthening institutional memory,



and enhancing connectivity across its growing network. STREAMS serves as a comprehensive chronicle of college life, featuring updates on academic programs, co-curricular and extracurricular events, NSS and student body activities, student achievements, faculty research, guest lectures, workshops, and cultural festivals. Its name—STREAMS—symbolizes the continuous flow of knowledge, ideas, and experiences that define the vibrant academic environment of the college.

## Health Drive organized in College by NSS and MTVM

On 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, successfully organized a comprehensive “Health Checkup Drive and Awareness” Program in collaboration with Meera Hospital, aimed at promoting physical, mental, and emotional well-being among students. The two-day initiative was jointly conducted by the college’s National Service Scheme (NSS) unit, led by Dr. Vishal Bhaware, and the Mother Teresa Vidyarthini Manch (MTVM), headed by Sr. Mareena Brahmane. The program was designed to address critical



health concerns facing today’s youth, with special focus on personal hygiene, mental health, addiction, and the impact of social media on behavior and self-image.

The health camp saw active participation from both male and female students, with medical professionals from Meera Hospital conducting thorough health checkups including basic vitals, BMI assessment, and preliminary screenings. Separate interactive sessions were organized for boys and girls to ensure a comfortable and open environment for discussion. These sessions were particularly

impactful, as they addressed gender-specific health issues with sensitivity and professionalism.

Dr. Anwar Shaikh, General Physician, delivered an informative talk on general wellness, preventive healthcare, and the dangers of substance abuse, emphasizing the importance of a balanced lifestyle. Dr. Shreya Oswal and Dr. Sneha (Gynec RMO), both gynecologists, conducted an insightful session for female students. The session encouraged open dialogue and dispelled common myths related to women’s health. Dr. Prachi, the hospital’s dietician, educated students on the importance of nutrition, healthy eating habits, and the risks of poor dietary choices in the context of today’s fast-food culture.





camp, managing records, and supporting the doctors during examinations. The entire event was coordinated efficiently by Ms. Sonali, Marketing Manager of Meera Hospital, who ensured seamless collaboration between the hospital team and college authorities.

The involvement of NSS and MTVM highlighted the college's commitment to community service and holistic student development. The initiative not only provided students with essential health insights but also fostered a culture of care, awareness, and responsibility. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing gratitude for the opportunity to access professional healthcare and guidance in a familiar, supportive environment.

Overall, the Health Checkup Drive stood as a testament to the power of institutional collaboration in promoting student welfare. By addressing both physical and mental health through expert-led talks and medical screenings, St. Vincent College reaffirmed its role as a nurturing and socially responsible educational institution.





## Seminar on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Conducted by Sambhav Foundation, Pune

A highly informative and engaging seminar on Artificial Intelligence (AI) was conducted for the students of St. Vincent College, Pune, on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025, in collaboration with the Sambhav Foundation,



Pune. The seminar aimed to introduce students to the rapidly evolving world of AI, its foundational concepts, real-world applications, and its transformative impact across various sectors, particularly in education, communication, and career development. The session was organized under the aegis of the college's academic enrichment program and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across disciplines, especially those from Mass Communication, Commerce, and Computer Applications.

The resource person for the seminar was Ms. Shubhangi, a dynamic and knowledgeable AI educator and project lead at the Sambhav Foundation, Pune. With years of experience in technology education and digital literacy initiatives, Ms. Shubhangi brought both technical depth and pedagogical clarity to the session. She began the seminar with an interactive icebreaker, assessing students' existing understanding of AI, which helped tailor the discussion to their level of comprehension.

Ms. Shubhangi provided a clear and accessible explanation of what AI is, differentiating it from general automation and machine learning. She discussed the core technologies behind AI, including neural networks, data training, and algorithms, using relatable analogies and real-life examples such as voice assistants, recommendation systems on streaming platforms, and AI-powered chatbots. She also introduced students to tools like ChatGPT, DALL·E, and AI-driven content generators, demonstrating how these are reshaping the way we create, communicate, and learn.



A significant portion of the seminar was dedicated to AI in everyday life and future careers. Ms. Shubhangi highlighted how AI is revolutionizing industries such as healthcare, finance, media, and marketing. For Mass Communication students, she emphasized AI's role in content creation, video editing, social media analytics, and personalized storytelling. She also addressed the ethical concerns surrounding AI, including data privacy, job displacement, deepfakes, and algorithmic bias, encouraging students to approach AI with both curiosity and critical thinking.

Interactive demonstrations were a highlight of the session. Students were shown how to use simple AI tools for text generation, image creation, and data interpretation. They were also encouraged to ask questions and share their views on the future of human-AI collaboration. The Q&A segment was lively, with queries ranging from “Can AI replace journalists?” to “How can we use AI responsibly in academic work?”

The seminar concluded with a group activity where students brainstormed innovative ways AI could be used for social good—such as in education for rural students, environmental conservation, and public awareness campaigns. Ms. Shubhangi commended the creativity and insight demonstrated by the students and distributed informational handouts and resource links for further learning.



## Seminar on Entrepreneurship by Action DNA

On 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025, a Seminar on Entrepreneurship was organized for commerce students of St. Vincent College, Pune, by Action DNA, a training and development organization specializing in skill-building and entrepreneurial education. The session was conducted to expose students to the fundamentals of starting and managing a business, with a focus on practical knowledge, mindset development, and real-world challenges faced by entrepreneurs. The resource person for the seminar was Ms. Damini Gaikwad, a program facilitator from Action DNA, who has experience in conducting career-oriented workshops for undergraduate students.

The seminar took place in the college auditorium and was attended by students from F.Y.B.Com and S.Y.B.Com. It began in the morning and lasted for approximately two hours. Ms. Gaikwad opened the session by discussing the difference between traditional employment and entrepreneurship, highlighting the growing relevance of self-employment and startups in the current economic scenario. She explained key concepts such as identifying business opportunities, market research, customer validation, and the importance of solving real problems through a product or service.

The session included a breakdown of the components of a basic business model, including target audience, pricing, competition, and revenue generation. Ms. Gaikwad used simple language and related examples, such as local small businesses and youth-led startups, to make the content accessible. She also emphasized soft skills like resilience, adaptability, time management, and networking, which are essential for running a successful venture.

Students were encouraged to think about their own interests and how they could be turned into potential business ideas. A short interactive activity was conducted where small groups discussed hypothetical business scenarios and presented their solutions. This helped students apply the concepts in a practical setting and sparked engagement.



The seminar also touched upon government schemes and funding opportunities for young entrepreneurs, as well as the role of digital platforms in marketing and sales. Ms. Gaikwad clarified common misconceptions—such as the need for large capital to start a business—and highlighted the possibility of beginning with minimal investment and scaling gradually.

The seminar was informative and structured, with a clear objective of building entrepreneurial awareness among commerce students. While not all students may pursue business ownership, the session helped broaden their understanding of career possibilities beyond conventional jobs. Based on feedback, the college plans to organize follow-up sessions on business plan writing and digital entrepreneurship in the coming months.

### **Cup of Joy tournament organised for the students, staff alumni and Jesuit community**



On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, organized a football tournament titled the "Cup of Joy Tournament", a special sporting event held as part of the Independence Day celebrations. The tournament was

conceived as a community-building initiative, bringing together students, college staff, alumni, and members of the Jesuit community for a day of healthy competition, camaraderie, and shared joy. The event was coordinated by Mr. Ignatius Peter, a faculty member actively involved in student activities and sports coordination, who oversaw the planning, scheduling, and execution of the tournament.

The tournament began after the conclusion of the cultural performance of Independence day and continued throughout the day, with matches played in a knockout format. A total of six teams participated, each representing a different segment of the college community: two student teams (senior and junior), one team of teaching and non-teaching staff, two alumni teams (grouped by graduation batches), and a combined Jesuit community team comprising priests and brothers associated with the institution.

Each team played 7-a-side matches with shortened game durations to accommodate the schedule and allow for multiple rounds. The rules followed basic football regulations, adapted for a friendly, non-professional setting. Refereeing was managed by physical education staff and trained student volunteers. Safety measures were in place, including first-aid availability and hydration stations, ensuring a secure environment for all participants.



The atmosphere was energetic and celebratory, with spectators—comprising fellow students, faculty, and family members—cheering enthusiastically from the sidelines. The event fostered inter-generational interaction, as former students played alongside or against current staff and juniors, creating moments of humor, mutual respect, and shared enthusiasm. The Jesuit team's participation added a distinctive spirit of simplicity and joy, in line with the event's name.



The event concluded by late afternoon. Mr. Ignatius Peter thanked all participants, organizers, and supporters, highlighting the success of the tournament in strengthening community bonds and promoting active, joyful living. He noted that such initiatives align with the Jesuit educational philosophy of

*cura personalis*—care for the whole person—by nurturing physical, emotional, and social well-being.

The "Cup of Joy Tournament" was widely appreciated for its inclusive nature and positive spirit. It provided a refreshing alternative to formal academic and ceremonial events, especially on Independence Day, by celebrating freedom through play, unity, and collective energy. Based on the response, the college plans to make the tournament an annual tradition, potentially expanding it to include other sports in the coming years.



## Talent hunt competition

On 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, organized a Talent Hunt Competition as part of its efforts to identify and encourage student talent in the fields of music, dance, and performance arts. The event was held on the college premises and aimed to provide a platform for students to showcase their creative abilities while also helping the college select potential candidates for inter-college competitions in the coming academic year. A total of 28 students participated, representing a range of talents including solo and group dancing, vocal singing (both classical and contemporary), instrumental performances on guitar, violin, and tabla, as well as beatboxing.

The competition began in the late morning and was conducted in the college auditorium. Each participant was given a time slot of 3 to 5 minutes to perform. The performances were judged by a panel of three members: Irisha Poonawala, Sharayu Bhalerao, and Sebastin Moktam, all of whom have experience in music, cultural coordination, or student activities. They evaluated the participants based on criteria such as technical skill, stage presence, creativity, audience engagement, and overall presentation.



Dance performances included styles such as Bharatnatyam, hip-hop, and freestyle, with some students choreographing original pieces. Singing entries ranged from Marathi and Hindi film songs to semi-classical and pop renditions. Instrumentalists performed both solo and in small ensembles. A notable performance came from a beatboxer who incorporated sound effects and rhythm patterns, drawing appreciation for originality and control.

No prizes or awards were announced on the spot, as the primary objective of the event was assessment rather than competition. The college administration and event coordinators made it clear that the purpose was to build a pool of skilled performers who could be trained and sent to represent the college in external cultural festivals and inter-college events. Follow-up auditions and training sessions are expected to be organized in the coming weeks for shortlisted students.

Overall, the Talent Hunt served its intended purpose of identifying capable performers and assessing the level of artistic talent within the student body. It also created visibility for non-academic skills and emphasized the college's commitment to holistic development. Based on the outcomes, the college plans to maintain a rotating roster of performers and provide basic grooming sessions in stagecraft, presentation, and teamwork to prepare them for competitive platforms.





### **Participation in the seminar “Human Rights and Citizenship, National Transformative Leadership Program” by AICUF students**

From 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025, a group of students from the All India Catholic University Federation (AICUF) unit of St. Vincent College, Pune, participated in the National Transformative Leadership Program titled “Human Rights and Citizenship”, held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The five-day residential seminar was conducted under the broader theme “Glocalizing Catholic Student Action: Empowerment, Engagement, and Solidarity”, emphasizing the need to connect local faith-based values with global social justice concerns. The program brought together AICUF student leaders and faculty coordinators from various colleges across India, providing a platform for dialogue, learning, and collective reflection on contemporary issues related to human rights, democratic citizenship, and ethical leadership.



The seminar was structured around a series of interactive sessions, expert lectures, group discussions, and experiential activities. Resource persons included academicians, human rights activists, clergy, and development practitioners who addressed topics such as the constitutional rights of marginalized communities, the role of youth in strengthening democracy, gender justice, environmental ethics, and the Church’s social teachings. Special focus was given to the rights of indigenous peoples, religious minorities, migrant workers, and persons with disabilities, highlighting the importance of inclusive citizenship and active solidarity. The concept of “glocalization” was explored in depth—encouraging students to root their actions in local realities while remaining connected to global human rights frameworks and Catholic social principles.

Students from St. Vincent College actively engaged in all components of the program. They participated in thematic group work, where they developed action plans for human rights awareness campaigns to be implemented in their respective campuses and communities. One group focused on promoting mental health awareness among students, while another proposed initiatives to support informal sector workers near their college. The Pune delegation also shared experiences from their college's NSS and social outreach activities, contributing to broader discussions on student-led community engagement.



Daily reflection sessions allowed participants to internalize the themes and connect them with their personal and spiritual values. Cultural exchanges in the evenings fostered inter-regional understanding, with students presenting traditional songs, dances, and food from their home regions. These moments strengthened bonds of unity and highlighted India's diversity within a shared commitment to justice and peace.

At the conclusion of the program, a final declaration was adopted, outlining key commitments made by student delegates to promote human rights education, interfaith harmony, and civic participation in their institutions. The St. Vincent College participants returned with renewed motivation to expand AICUF's activities on campus, including plans for organizing human rights workshops, interfaith dialogues, and community service projects aligned with the seminar's vision.



The experience provided invaluable exposure to national-level discourse on citizenship and justice, empowering the students to become more responsible, reflective, and proactive members of both the college and larger society.





## Participation of NSS students in the “Horrors of Partition Remembrance Day” organised by NSS department in SPPU

On 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025, a seminar titled ‘Horrors of Partition Remembrance Day’ was organized by the NSS unit of Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) on the SPPU campus as part of the national observance of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. The event aimed to honor the memory of the millions affected during the 1947 partition of India, which led to widespread displacement, violence, and loss of life. It served as a platform to educate students about the historical, social, and human dimensions of one of the most traumatic events in modern Indian history. The seminar included a series of talks, a documentary screening, and a moment of silence to pay tribute to the survivors and victims. Speakers emphasized the importance of remembering the past to promote unity, peace, and communal harmony in contemporary society. Four students from the NSS unit of St. Vincent College, Pune, actively participated in the event. They attended the full session, which featured addresses by historians, academic experts, and public officials who shared personal narratives, archival footage, and research-based insights on the long-term impact of partition on families and communities. The students engaged in discussions on the role of youth in preserving historical memory and preventing the recurrence of division based on religion, language, or region. They also signed a solidarity pledge reaffirming their commitment to national integration and social cohesion. The atmosphere was solemn and reflective, with a focus on learning and remembrance rather than celebration. The participation of St. Vincent College students highlighted the institution’s support for value-based education and its encouragement of students to engage in university-level initiatives on social and historical awareness. The four students reported back to their college’s NSS coordinator, Dr. Vishal Bhaware, sharing their experience and the key takeaways from the seminar. Their attendance underscored the importance of inter-college collaboration in fostering civic responsibility and historical consciousness among youth.



## Independence Day celebrations and Cultural performance

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, observed Independence Day with a formal and respectful celebration held on the college premises. The event began in the morning with the hoisting of the national flag. The honour of hoisting the flag was given to George Judah, a two-time war veteran and guest of the college for the occasion. Mr. Judah, who served in the Indian Armed Forces, was invited as the chief guest due to his service and contribution to the nation. His presence added a sense of solemnity and historical connection to the day's significance.



Following the flag hoisting, the national anthem was sung collectively, and a brief moment of silence was observed in tribute to the freedom fighters and soldiers who contributed to the country's independence and security. After the formal ceremony, the event moved to the college auditorium for a cultural program. Students from various departments participated in the program, which included patriotic songs, recitations, and short skits reflecting themes related to independence, national unity, and social responsibility. Some performances focused on historical events leading to independence, while others highlighted the importance of peace, democracy, and civic duty in contemporary India.



The cultural segment was organized by student coordinators with support from faculty members. There were no elaborate decorations or high-budget arrangements; the focus remained on meaningful participation and expression. The audience, consisting of students and teaching staff, responded with attention and appreciation. Mr. George Judah was felicitated after the performances, and he shared a few personal reflections on his time in service, the value of discipline, and the importance of education and active citizenship for youth.



The college used the occasion to reinforce values of patriotism, respect for national symbols, and awareness of historical struggles. The decision to invite a war veteran as chief guest emphasized real-life contributions to national security, offering students a direct connection to history. The celebration concluded by midday, with no special announcements or policy launches, but it served as a quiet yet effective reminder of the importance of 15<sup>th</sup> August in the national calendar. The event was in line with the college's efforts to mark national days with dignity and educational relevance.

### **Tree Plantation drive by the NSS unit**

On 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025, the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of St. Vincent College, Pune, in collaboration with the Board of Student Development, organized a One Day Tree Plantation Drive at Bhojdari village in Taluka Sangamner, District Ahilyanagar. The event was conducted under the theme "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," which aimed to create an emotional and social connection between tree planting and the respect and gratitude associated with motherhood. The drive began at 10:00 a.m. with an inaugural ceremony that included the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the chief guests, symbolizing knowledge, growth, and a collective commitment to environmental responsibility. Dr. Vishal Bhaware, NSS Programme Officer, welcomed the gathering and outlined the purpose and significance of the initiative, emphasizing the role of youth in environmental conservation.

The program was attended by several dignitaries, including Dr. Kiranji Lahamate, MLA of Akole Constituency, Shri. Amol Khatal, MLA of Sangamner Constituency, Shri. Mohan Tamhane, Forest Officer from Sangamner, Dr. Anil Adsule, Principal of St. Vincent College, and Prof. Yogesh Mate, Coordinator of the Board of Student Development. In their addresses, the guests spoke about the urgent need for afforestation, the long-term benefits of tree planting for ecological balance, and the importance of community participation in protecting the environment. They appreciated the symbolic gesture of dedicating each sapling in the name of mothers, noting that it adds a cultural and emotional value to the act of planting trees and encourages a sense of personal responsibility toward nurturing them.

Following the inaugural session, the plantation activity was carried out with active participation from 50 NSS volunteers and 4 college staff members. A total of 1,000 saplings were planted, primarily consisting of Pam trees and coconut trees, which are well-suited to the local soil and climate conditions of the region. Each participant planted a sapling and formally dedicated it to their mother, reinforcing the emotional and social message of the campaign. The site was coordinated with the help of local forest department officials, who also provided guidance on proper planting techniques and post-plantation care.

The event succeeded in fostering a strong sense of environmental awareness and civic responsibility among the students. It also strengthened the collaboration between the college, local authorities, and the rural community. The presence of elected representatives and forest officials underscored the importance of institutional and governmental support in sustainability initiatives. At the conclusion of the event, a formal vote of thanks was delivered by a faculty member, acknowledging the contributions of all stakeholders, including the guest dignitaries, NSS volunteers, support staff, and local community members.

The college has committed to periodic follow-ups to monitor the survival and growth of the planted saplings, with plans for future visits to ensure proper maintenance. This tree plantation drive is part of the NSS's broader annual action plan for the 2025–26 academic year, aimed at promoting sustainable development and community engagement. Overall, the event was a well-organized, meaningful, and impactful initiative that combined environmental action with social values, leaving a lasting impression on all participants.



### Seminar on “Careers in Aviation” by Poise Academy for BA students

On 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025, a seminar on “Careers in Aviation” was conducted for BA students of St. Vincent College, Pune, by Poise Academy, an institute that specializes in career guidance and training for aviation and hospitality sectors. The session was organized to introduce students to various job opportunities in the aviation industry beyond the commonly known roles of pilots and cabin crew. It was held in the college seminar hall and lasted for approximately two hours, starting in the morning. The event was attended by a significant number of BA students, many of whom are exploring career options after their first year.

Representatives from Poise Academy led the session, providing a structured overview of the aviation sector and the range of positions available. They explained roles such as ground staff, airport operations manager, air traffic controller, aviation security personnel, customer service executive, ramp agent, and roles in airline administration and cargo management. For each role, they outlined the required qualifications, skill sets, training duration, and entry pathways. They also clarified misconceptions, such as the belief that only science students can enter aviation, emphasizing that graduates from any stream, including Arts, can pursue careers in this field after completing relevant diploma or certification courses.





The speakers discussed the physical, communication, and behavioral requirements for different jobs, especially those involving direct passenger interaction. They stressed the importance of soft skills like punctuality, grooming, teamwork, problem-solving, and the ability to work under pressure. A presentation was used to show real work environments, uniforms, and organizational structures of major airlines and airports in India. The session also included information about training institutes, approximate course fees, placement support, and starting salaries in different roles.

Students were given handouts with contact details of training centers, course brochures, and a list of documents required for aviation job applications. A question-and-answer round followed the presentation, during which students asked about age limits, job stability, shift patterns, and opportunities for women in the industry. The representatives answered each query factually, without making unrealistic promises about placements or income.

Overall, the session served its purpose of expanding students' awareness about alternative career paths. It was informative, well-organized, and delivered in a straightforward manner. While not all students may pursue aviation, many said they now had a better idea of what the industry involves and how to begin if interested. The college plans to invite similar career-focused organizations in the future to expose students to diverse employment options after graduation.



## **Mentor-Mentee program officially launched along with orientation for students**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, officially launched its Mentor-Mentee Program as part of its ongoing efforts to support student development and academic progress. The program was introduced to provide structured guidance to undergraduate students, particularly those in the first and second years of the B.Com program. Under this initiative, faculty members from various departments were assigned small groups of students to mentor throughout the academic year. Each mentor is responsible for maintaining regular contact with their mentees, monitoring academic performance, and offering support in areas such as subject understanding, time management, exam preparation, and attendance.

The launch of the program began with an orientation session held on the same day, attended by both faculty and students. During the session, the objectives and framework of the mentor-mentee system were clearly explained. Faculty members were briefed on their roles, which include identifying students who may be struggling academically, initiating early interventions, and serving as a point of contact for academic and personal concerns. Mentors are also expected to guide students in making informed decisions about career options, higher education, certifications, and skill development opportunities.

Students were informed about how the program would function, including the frequency of meetings, modes of communication, and the kind of support they could expect. They were encouraged to approach their mentors with questions or difficulties without hesitation. The college emphasized that the mentor is not a substitute for formal counseling but can help identify when a student may need professional psychological or academic support and direct them to the appropriate college resources.

The program aims to create a more personalized academic environment, especially in a large classroom setting where individual attention can be limited. It also seeks to improve student engagement, reduce dropout rates, and enhance overall academic outcomes. The orientation helped set clear expectations on both sides—mentors understand their responsibilities, and students know how to make the most of the support available.

No formal events or guest speakers were involved in the launch; the focus remained on practical implementation. The program is being coordinated by the college's academic committee, with periodic reviews planned to assess its effectiveness. Feedback from both mentors and mentees will be collected term-wise to make necessary adjustments.

So far, the response from faculty has been cooperative, with most members accepting their roles seriously. Students, especially first-years, expressed relief at having a designated teacher they could approach for help beyond the classroom. The college plans to document student progress in consultation with mentors and use the data for academic planning.

The Mentor-Mentee Program is not intended to add administrative burden but to integrate support into the existing academic structure. It reflects the college's effort to move beyond traditional teaching and adopt a more holistic approach to student development. While it is still in the initial stage, the structure is clear, and implementation has begun in a systematic manner. The success of the program will depend on consistent follow-up, honest communication, and active participation from both mentors and students.

### **Placement Session for all the female students in St. Vincent College by “The Job Factory”**

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, organized a career awareness and placement orientation session for all female students in collaboration with “The Job Factory”, a placement and skill development institute based in Viman Nagar, Pune. The session was conducted on the college premises and aimed to inform women students about free training and employment opportunities available in sectors such as IT/ITES, hospitality, retail sales, accounting software, and data management. The initiative was specifically designed to support and empower female students from diverse academic backgrounds, including Commerce and Arts, by enhancing their employability and facilitating direct access to job placements.





The representatives from The Job Factory began the session by introducing their organization's mission of bridging the gap between education and employment, particularly for women seeking entry-level jobs or career restarts after a break. They emphasized that their training programs are completely free of cost and tailored to equip women with job-ready skills, regardless of their prior experience. The training duration varies from 15 days to 6 weeks, depending on the course, and is delivered through a blend of classroom instruction and hands-on practice.

The key domains of training and placement were explained in detail. In IT/ITES, students were informed about roles such as data entry operators, customer support executives, and back-office staff in BPOs and KPOs. For accounting software, the training includes proficiency in Tally, MS Excel, and basic accounting practices, making students eligible for positions like junior accountants or bookkeepers. In retail sales, the focus is on customer handling, sales techniques, and store operations, with placement opportunities in retail chains and malls. The hospitality module covers front-office operations, housekeeping supervision, and guest service roles in hotels and service apartments.



The resource persons highlighted that the training is followed by 100% placement assistance, with tie-ups established with reputed companies across Pune and nearby regions. They also mentioned that flexible batch timings are available to accommodate students' academic schedules, and that transportation and study materials are provided at no extra cost.

A significant part of the session was dedicated to addressing concerns related to gender bias, workplace safety, and career growth. The team reassured students that the companies they work with adhere to safe working environments and equal opportunity policies. They also shared success stories of women from similar educational backgrounds who had undergone the training and secured stable jobs.

Students were given printed brochures containing course details, eligibility criteria, contact information, and registration procedures. A representative stayed back after the session to answer individual queries. Approximately 80 female students from F.Y. and S.Y. B.Com and BA programs attended the session, showing keen interest, particularly in the Tally and ITES programs.

The event was coordinated by the coordinator of MTVM, Sr. Mareena Brahmane. Other faculty members were present throughout to facilitate the session and encourage participation.

### Seminar on “Awareness on aids “

On 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, organized a seminar on AIDS Awareness as part of its ongoing efforts to promote health education and social responsibility among students. The session was conducted in collaboration with the Health Department of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and held on the college premises during regular academic hours. The aim of the seminar was to provide students with accurate information about HIV/AIDS, dispel myths and misconceptions, and promote awareness about prevention, testing, and the importance of reducing social stigma associated with the disease.

The resource person for the seminar was a public health educator and field officer from the PMC's Health Department, who has been involved in community outreach and awareness campaigns on communicable diseases. The session began at 11:00 a.m. in the college auditorium and was attended primarily by undergraduate students from the B.Com and BA programs, along with a few faculty members and NSS volunteers.



The presentation covered the basic biology of HIV, explaining how the virus affects the immune system and progresses to AIDS if left untreated. A significant portion of the seminar focused on prevention strategies. The speaker also discussed the role of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) in high-risk groups, as well as the availability of free

HIV testing and Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) at government hospitals and designated centers in Pune.

The session addressed the social dimension of HIV/AIDS, particularly the discrimination and isolation faced by affected individuals. Students were encouraged to adopt a compassionate and non-judgmental attitude, and to act as peer educators in their communities. The speaker shared real-life examples—without revealing identities—of people living with HIV who lead normal, healthy lives with proper treatment and support.

Myths such as “HIV is a death sentence” or “only certain groups are at risk” were directly addressed and corrected with factual data from national health surveys and WHO guidelines. A short informational video produced by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) was screened to reinforce key messages.



Students were given pamphlets containing contact details of local ART centers, helpline numbers, and tips for staying safe. They were also informed about the confidentiality of HIV testing and the importance of early diagnosis.



A question-and-answer round followed the presentation. Students asked about the accuracy of HIV tests, window periods, and the status of a cure. The resource person answered each query factually and sensitively, maintaining a respectful and open environment.

This awareness program aligns with broader national efforts to achieve the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets by 2030 and reflects St. Vincent College's commitment to holistic education that includes physical, emotional, and social well-being. Future sessions on related topics such as sexual health, drug abuse, and mental wellness are planned in collaboration with the PMC.

### Educational Seminar on “Careers in Creativity – Design, Fashion and Beyond”



On 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025, our college successfully hosted an insightful and inspiring educational seminar titled “Careers in Creativity: Design, Fashion and Beyond”, aimed at guiding creatively inclined students toward meaningful and sustainable careers in the dynamic world of design.

The seminar was graced by Mr. Ajinkya Harshey, Founder and Principal Mentor of ARH Design Academy, a well-known name in creative education and mentorship for competitive entrance exams like NATA, JEE Paper 2, NID, and NIFT. Mr. Harshey, with his wealth of experience and passion for nurturing young talent, delivered an engaging session that resonated deeply with students exploring pathways in design, fashion, architecture, and related creative fields. The seminar was structured to offer not just theoretical knowledge but also practical, actionable guidance — from understanding the nuances of creative education and building strong portfolios, to mastering entrance exams and navigating diverse career opportunities in India and abroad. Students gained clarity on how to align their creative interests with academic and professional goals, while also learning about emerging trends, industry expectations, and long-term growth in creative sectors. The interactive Q&A segment allowed students to address their personal doubts, making the session both informative and deeply relatable. Organized with the intent to empower students beyond conventional career streams, the seminar succeeded in sparking curiosity, boosting confidence, and providing a clear roadmap for those eager to turn their creativity into a fulfilling profession.



## Our students make us proud

Mr. Omkar Pawar has secured 2<sup>nd</sup> rank in the intercollegiate event “Commerce Through the Ages”, organized by the Department of Arts and Commerce at MIT College (2025–26).



Mr. Aditya Jadhav (Alumnus), former 3-time University Boxing Champion and National-level player, is now coaching the next generation of boxers — and his students are already winning awards. We're proud to see him passing on his excellence!

## Interview preparation workshop



On 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, conducted an Interview Preparation Workshop for F.Y.B.Com and S.Y.B.Com students. The session was led by faculty members Dr. Franklin Salvi and Mr. Shahzad Nariman. It aimed to build students' confidence and skills for job interviews, internships, and placements. The workshop covered types of interviews, common questions, body language, dressing sense, and professional etiquette. Faculty explained how to structure answers and introduce oneself effectively in 1–2 minutes. Emphasis was placed on research, honesty, and composure during interviews. A mock interview segment allowed five students to practice, followed by



immediate feedback. Small group activities helped others rehearse responses in a supportive setting. Students learned how to handle stress, discuss weaknesses, and respond when unsure of answers. The session lasted two hours and was held in the college seminar hall. Attendance was high, with active participation from both first and second-year students. Feedback was positive, with students appreciating the practical, hands-on approach. The college plans to organize follow-up sessions on resume writing and group discussions. Mr. Nariman and Dr. Salvi's guidance was clear, relevant, and student-focused. The workshop successfully equipped students with essential real-world interview skills.

### Rural Immersion Program for AICUF students



From 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, the All India Catholic University Federation (AICUF) unit of St. Vincent College, Pune, conducted a three-day Rural Immersion Program (Named Jeevika) for its student members in the villages of Hivre Korda and two other nearby villages in Ahmednagar district. The primary objective of the program was to provide students with firsthand exposure to grassroots-level environmental conservation, with a specific focus on studying the watershed management techniques implemented in these regions over the past decades.

The program was organized under the guidance of the AICUF faculty coordinators and supported by local contacts and community leaders in the region. A total of 12 AICUF students from various undergraduate programs participated in the immersion, staying in basic community accommodations to experience rural living conditions and foster deeper engagement with the local population.



The choice of Hivre Korda as a central site for the visit was deliberate, as the village is widely recognized for its successful and sustainable watershed development model. The village transformed from a drought-prone, economically distressed area into a self-reliant and green community through collective action and scientific water conservation methods.

During the visit, students were taken on guided field walks through the village landscape to observe key watershed structures such as percolation tanks, check dams, contour bunding, farm ponds, and afforestation zones. They interacted with farmers and village committee members who explained how rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge have revived agriculture, reduced soil erosion, and improved drinking water availability. The emphasis was on community ownership—how decisions about water use, crop patterns, and land management are made collectively, with strict rules against water-intensive crops and open grazing.

In the second village, the focus shifted to decentralized water storage systems and the role of women's self-help groups in managing water resources. Students learned how micro-level planning, supported by government schemes like MGNREGA, enabled the construction of small-scale water conservation structures that benefited individual hamlets. The third village highlighted the integration of watershed development with organic farming and soil health management, showcasing how water conservation contributes to long-term agricultural sustainability.



In addition to field visits, students attended informal sessions with local activists and retired development officers who provided historical context on the evolution of watershed programs in Maharashtra. They discussed the challenges faced—such as initial resistance from villagers, lack of funding, and bureaucratic delays—and how persistence and education led to behavioral change.

Students were encouraged to document their observations, conduct interviews, and reflect on the social, ecological, and economic dimensions of rural development. They noted the strong correlation between environmental restoration and social discipline, including bans on liquor, family planning initiatives, and equitable resource distribution.

The immersion also included discussions on the role of youth and educational institutions in supporting rural development. AICUF students reflected on how the values of solidarity, simplicity, and stewardship align with Catholic social teaching and how they can contribute to similar initiatives in their own communities.

At the end of the three days, the group held a debriefing session where each participant shared key takeaways. Many expressed a deeper appreciation for sustainable development and the power of collective action. The college plans to compile a student-led report on the findings and explore possibilities for future collaboration with rural development organizations in the region.



The Rural Immersion Program was not a formal training but an experiential learning initiative aimed at broadening students' perspectives beyond the classroom. It strengthened AICUF's commitment to social justice, environmental ethics, and community engagement. The program concluded on 31<sup>st</sup> August, and the students returned to Pune with a renewed sense of responsibility toward ecological sustainability and rural empowerment.



## August in Retrospect — Growth, Grit, and Gratitude

As we turn the page on August 2025, we carry with us the echoes of insightful seminars, the rustle of newly planted saplings, the cheers from the football field, and the quiet pride of students stepping onto podiums and into purposeful futures. This month, our campus was not just a space for lectures and labs — it became a living classroom where curiosity met compassion, creativity found direction, and community was strengthened across generations. From honoring the solemn lessons of history to celebrating the spark of talent in our students, from empowering young women with job-ready skills to guiding mentors and mentees toward meaningful connections — every event, big or small, added a thread to the rich tapestry of our college life. We thank our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners — your energy, ideas, and commitment made this month truly memorable. As September unfolds, let's carry forward this momentum, continuing to learn, serve, and grow — together.

## GLIMPSES





# St. Vincent College, Pune







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