



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

Title of the Event	Interfaith dialogue seminar and felicitation ceremony		
Date of the Event	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025	Place of the event	St. Vincent College
Objectives of the Event	The seminar aimed to culminate a year-long interfaith initiative by fostering reflective dialogue on religious pluralism, promoting mutual respect among diverse traditions, and publicly honoring individuals who exemplified sustained commitment to interreligious harmony and social cohesion.		
Name/s of the Resource Persons	Dr. Gilbi John		

A short narration of the program

**Interfaith Dialogue Seminar and Felicitation Ceremony**

On the morning of July 3, 2025, St. Vincent College hosted an Interfaith Dialogue Seminar, organized by the All India Catholic University Federation (AICUF) in close collaboration with the Snehsadan Institute, college faculty, and institutional leadership. The event marked the formal conclusion of a year-long series of interfaith engagements initiated to nurture mutual understanding, respect, and collaborative coexistence among individuals of diverse religious traditions. Held in the college at 10:30 a.m., the seminar embodied the institution's enduring commitment to fostering a culture of dialogue as a vital response to rising social fragmentation and identity-based tensions.

The seminar provided a reflective and inclusive space where participants—students, faculty, and community members—engaged with the ethical and spiritual dimensions of interreligious harmony. Discussions centered on the role of empathy, active listening, and shared humanity in bridging theological and cultural differences. Rather than focusing on doctrinal debate, the emphasis remained on lived experience, common values, and the practical work of building trust across communities. The event underscored a core conviction: that sustained, grassroots dialogue is not merely an idealistic aspiration but a necessary practice for democratic resilience and social cohesion.

Following the seminar, a Felicitation Ceremony was held to acknowledge and honor individuals whose consistent dedication had been instrumental in shaping and sustaining the year-long interfaith journey. The Chief Guest, Reverend Father Dr. Francis Gonsalves, S.J., a respected theologian, former Dean of Theology



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at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, and a nationally recognized voice for interreligious understanding, delivered a thoughtful and stirring address. He commended the initiative as “a courageous and prophetic witness” in an era marked by increasing polarization, highlighting how such efforts reaffirm education’s role in cultivating peacebuilders rather than bystanders.

Five individuals were formally recognized for their exceptional contributions: Mr. Ervad Jamshed, a Zoroastrian community leader, Ms. Jacinta Bastian, Mr. Shamsuddin Tamboli, Mr. N.P. Bakshi, and Father Peter D’Cruz, S.J. Each honoree received a token of appreciation and a citation acknowledging their role in advancing a shared vision of unity without uniformity. Their collective efforts—spanning workshops, shared prayer reflections, community service projects, and public conversations—had not only deepened interfaith literacy within the college but also inspired students to see diversity as a source of strength rather than division.

The program concluded with a moment of shared silence and a collective pledge to continue nurturing spaces where differences are respected, voices are heard, and common ground is actively cultivated. In both tone and substance, the event reflected St. Vincent College’s identity as a Jesuit institution committed to faith that does justice—one that engages the world not through isolation, but through encounter, humility, and hope.

This culminating seminar and felicitation served not as an endpoint, but as a reaffirmation of an ongoing commitment: that dialogue, when rooted in sincerity and sustained by action, remains one of the most powerful tools for healing and humanization in contemporary society.

Name of the Collaborating Agency	Snehsadan Institute
Learning Outcomes of the Event for the Participants	Attendees deepened their understanding of interfaith engagement as a practice of empathy and shared humanity, moving beyond tolerance toward active collaboration; many were inspired to view diversity as a foundation for community resilience and ethical citizenship.
Learning Outcomes for the Organizing team	The organizing team—comprising AICUF, faculty, and the Snehsadan Institute—strengthened its capacity to design sustained, values-driven interfaith programming and



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	recognized the importance of partnership, recognition, and narrative-sharing in building long-term culture change within academic and civic spaces.
No. of Participants	50 + including students, guests and faculty members of St. Vincent
Faculty in Charge	Dr. Gilbi John
Documents Attached	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Attendance Sheet</li><li>2. Geotag photographs</li><li>3. Resume of resource persons if any</li><li>4. Copy of remuneration paid if any</li><li>5. Notice of the event</li><li>6. Thank you letter to the resource persons</li></ol>