



CELEBRATION OF SECULARISM

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Report prepared by Dr. Gilbi John, Angelina Swaminathan, Loren Rosarius

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Date: 4th November, 2025

NOTICE

The St. Vincent College AICUF Unit in collaboration with **Samvidhan Jagar Abhiyan, ALERT, Gyan Bharati Pratishthan, Vishwa Lingayat Mahasabha, Rashtriya Mazdoor Sangh (RMS), and Lokayat** is Diwali Get-together

Theme: Celebration of Secularism

Speaker: **Justice B. G. Kolse Patil**, Vandana Chavan, Adv. Abhay Chhajed, Fr. (Dr.) Kenneth Misquitta, S.J., Basavaraj Kanje, Sunil Shinde, Alka Joshi, Bausaheb Ajabe, Prashant Jagtap

Date: 9th November, 2025

Venue: St. Vincent College

The program includes cultural performances, interfaith messages, and reflections on the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity that form the foundation of our nation.

All AICUF members and interested students are invited to join in celebrating the essence of secularism and the Indian Constitution.

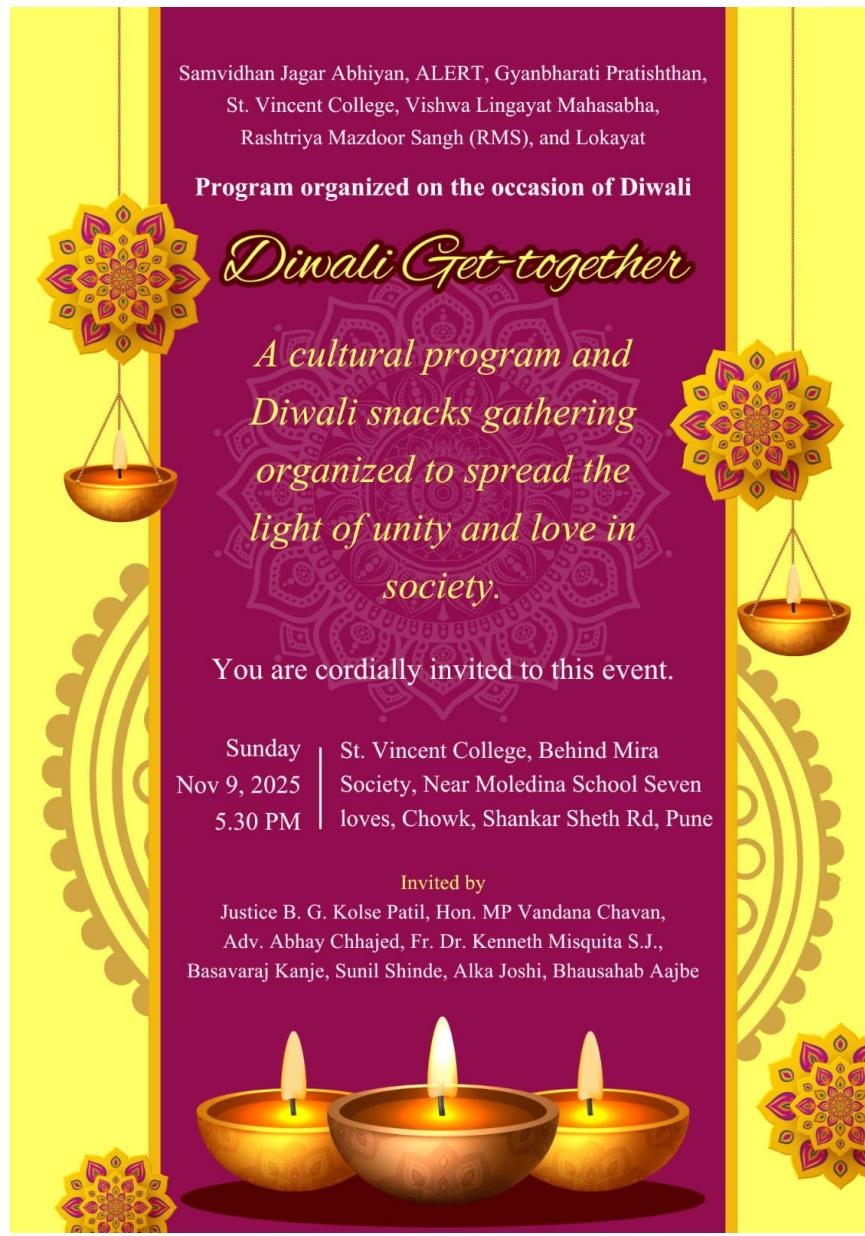
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POSTER



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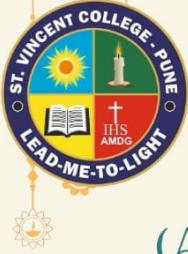
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Samvidhan Jagar Abhiyan
St. Vincent College, Pune
(AICUF Unit) In collaboration
with Lokayat

Presents

Celebration of Secularism

A Diwali And Guru Nanak Jayanti Get Together

A Cultural Program and Gathering
Spreading The Light Of Unity And Love
In Society.

 **Date : 9th November 2025**

 **Time : 5.30pm onwards**

 **Venue : St. Vincent College, Pune**



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INVITATION LETTER

To,
The Lokayut
Pune
Date: 3rd November, 2025

Subject: Invitation to Collaborate for the Programme “*Celebration of Secularism*”

Respected Sir/Madam,

Warm greetings from the AICUF Unit of St. Vincent College!

We are pleased to invite the Lokayut to join us in organising a special programme titled “**Celebration of Secularism**.” This initiative aims to celebrate Diwali and Guru Nanak Jayanti together, highlighting unity, interfaith harmony, and the beauty of India’s diverse cultural and religious traditions.

This programme will be organised in collaboration with AICUF and St. Vincent College, along with the support of a few other organisations - Samvidhan Jagar Abhiyan, ALERT, Gyan Bharati Pratishthan, Vishwa Lingayat Mahasabha, Rashtriya Mazdoor Sangh (RMS). The “Celebration of Secularism” seeks to bring together people of different religions and backgrounds to share reflections, traditions, and meaningful interactions rooted in mutual respect and understanding.

We believe that partnering with the Lokayut will enrich this initiative by promoting values of justice, equality, and communal harmony among students and community members. We would be honoured to have your presence and participation in planning and hosting this event.

We kindly request your collaboration for this programme and look forward to finalising the date and details at your convenience.

With warm regards,

Loren Rosarius
AICUF President
St. Vincent College
Contact No - 9146678856

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- 5:30 pm-6:15pm – Registration
- 6:15pm – 6:30pm - Welcome
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm – Cultural Programme and speeches
- 7:30pm – 7:45pm – Vote of Thanks
- 7:45pm – 8:00pm – Closing statements
- 8:00pm onwards – Dinner

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Profile of the speaker

Justice B. G. Kolse Patil

Justice (Retd.) B. G. Kolse Patil is a jurist-turned-social activist from Maharashtra who served on the Bombay High Court before resigning to work full-time on public interest causes. Over several decades he has championed land-rights, environmental protection and the rights of tribal and marginalised farmers, and is known for combining legal expertise with grassroots mobilisation and public commentary on judicial and democratic issues.

Hon. Vandana Chavan

Vandana Chavan is a lawyer and experienced public representative from Pune; she served as Mayor of Pune in 1997–98 and later represented Maharashtra in the Rajya Sabha. Her public work and advocacy emphasise urban governance, environmental protection, sustainable development and women's issues, and she remains active in civic debates in Pune.

Adv. Abhay Chhajed

Advocate Abhay Chhajed is a long-time Pune political organiser and lawyer who has held leadership roles in local Congress party structures and has been involved in election coordination and civic activities in the city. He is active in party organisational work and local public life in Pune

Fr. (Dr.) Kenneth Misquitta, S.J.

Fr. (Dr.) Kenneth Misquitta, S.J. is a senior Jesuit educator and the Director of St. Vincent College, Pune; he is known locally for his leadership in Jesuit schooling and college administration, and for speaking and writing on Ignatian educational values, pastoral care and community engagement.

Basavaraj Kanje

Basavaraj Kanje appears to be a locally-known community speaker/leader active in Lingayat and regional events.

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Sunil Shinde

Sunil Shinde is a Maharashtra politician with a public profile in urban civic politics; persons by this name have held or contested local and state legislative roles (including an MLC/MLA profile in Maharashtra).

Alka Joshi

Alka Joshi is a veteran Pune social activist associated with Lokayat and Abhivyakti, convenor/speaker on gender, civic rights and democratic issues; she regularly gives public talks and workshops in Pune on women's rights, social justice and civic awareness, and is well known in local activist circles.

Bhausaheb Ajabe (Bhausaheb Ajabe/ Ajabe Patil)

Adv. Bhausaheb Ajabe is a Pune-based lawyer and political organiser with visible social media and public records indicating active involvement in local party and civic work

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REPORT ON CELEBRATION OF SECULARISM

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Title of Event | Celebration of Secularism – A Cultural Evening |
| Date of Event | 9th November 2025 |
| Place of Event | St. Vincent College |
| Objective of the Event | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To celebrate the spirit of secularism, unity, and constitutional values.- To commemorate Diwali and Guru Nanak Jayanti through cultural expression.- To promote inter-community dialogue and civic awareness among youth.- To encourage collaboration between educational and social organizations. |
| Name of resource persons | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Justice B. G. Kolse Patil-Vandana Chavan-Adv. Abhay Chhajed-Fr. (Dr.) Kenneth Misquitta, S.J.-Basavaraj Kanje-Sunil Shinde-Alka Joshi-Bhausaheb Ajabe-Prashant Jagtap |
| Short Narration of the Program | <p>Organized as part of the <i>Samvidhan Jagar Abhiyan</i>, this collaborative event between AICUF and Lokayat beautifully united music, art, and civic awareness.</p> <p>The evening began with traditional Maharashtrian singers who filled the atmosphere with soulful renditions celebrating India's cultural diversity. A series of musical performances followed, reflecting themes of unity and peace. Dignitaries, including former Justice Kolse Patil and Mr. Prashant Jagtap, addressed the gathering on the role of youth in strengthening democracy and social responsibility.</p> |

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| | |
|---|--|
| Title of Event | Celebration of Secularism – A Cultural Evening |
| | <p>Rev. Fr. Kenneth Misquitta SJ delivered an inspiring message on constitutional values and the importance of dialogue in society. The cultural segment continued with poetry and dynamic dance performances by Ms. Jolen Mendes and the youth of Lokayut that energized the audience. The evening concluded with a community dinner, fostering fellowship and discussion. The event stood as a beacon of harmony, equality, and shared humanity.</p> |
| Learning Outcome for the Organizing Team | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Developed event planning and multi-organization coordination skills.- Enhanced capacity to handle public gatherings and dignitary engagement.- Strengthened teamwork and documentation for large-scale social events. |
| Learning Outcome for the Participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gained deeper understanding of secularism and constitutional values.- Appreciated cultural diversity and democratic participation.- Felt inspired to uphold unity, respect, and equality in everyday life.. |
| No. Of participants | 12 students and 1 Faculty from St. Vincent College were a part of this programme along with participants from all around the city |
| Faculty Incharge | Prof. Archana Nair, Dr. Gilbi John. Fr. Vijay Chokar SJ. |
| Documents attached | Photographs, Feedback Form, Attendance |

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THANK YOU LETTER

To,
The Lokayut
Pune
Date: 10th November, 2025

Subject: Appreciation for Your Support in the “*Celebration of Secularism*” Programme

Respected Sir/Madam,

Warm greetings from the AICUF Unit of St. Vincent College!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Lokayut for your valuable support and collaboration in organising the programme “**Celebration of Secularism**” held in honour of Diwali and Guru Nanak Jayanti. Your presence, guidance, and encouragement played a significant role in making the event meaningful and successful.

We also take this opportunity to sincerely thank the other participating organisations, namely Samvidhan Jagar Abhiyan, ALERT, Gyan Bharati Pratishthan, Vishwa Lingayat Mahasabha, Rashtriya Mazdoor Sangh (RMS) for their cooperation, contributions, and enthusiastic involvement.

The programme truly reflected the spirit of unity, interfaith respect, and cultural harmony. It was inspiring to witness people from diverse backgrounds come together to celebrate the essence of secularism in our society.

We are grateful for your partnership and would be delighted to collaborate again for future initiatives that promote awareness, justice, and communal harmony.

With warm regards and appreciation,

Loren Rosarius
AICUF President
St. Vincent College
Contact No - 9146678856

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ATTENDANCE SHEET

(This attendance sheet holds details only of students of St. Vincent College who volunteered and attended the programme)

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PHOTOGRAPHS



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Feedback Form for “Celebration of Secularism’25”

Event Date: 9th November, 2025

Venue: St. Vincent College, Pune

Thank you for attending this event. We value your feedback to improve future sessions. Please take a moment and answer the following questions:

- 1) How was the overall event?
(Excellent)
(Good)
(Satisfactory)
(Poor)
(Very Poor)
- 2) Did you feel engaged with the cultural performance and activities organised?
(Yes, I loved them)
(They were okay)
(I didn't participate)
(No, they weren't interesting)
- 3) How engaging were the speakers and resource persons of the programme?
(Extremely engaging)
(Engaging)
(Moderately engaging)
- 4) Did the event meet your expectations?
(Exceeded expectations)
(Met expectations)
(Partially Met expectations)
- 5) How were the arrangements by the organising committee?
(Excellent)
(Good)
(Moderate)
- 6) Any Suggestions?

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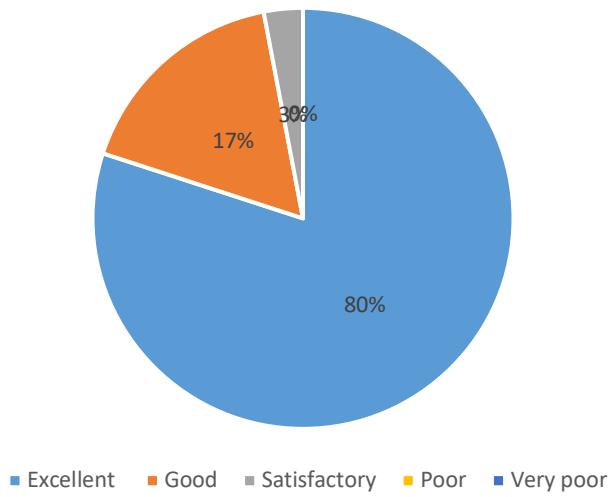
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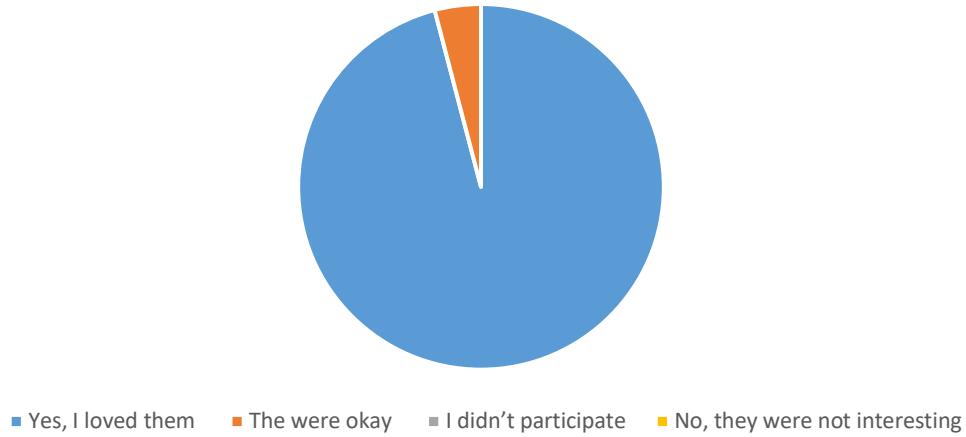


FEEDBACK ANALYSIS

1) How was the overall event?



2) Did you feel engaged with the cultural performance and activities organised?



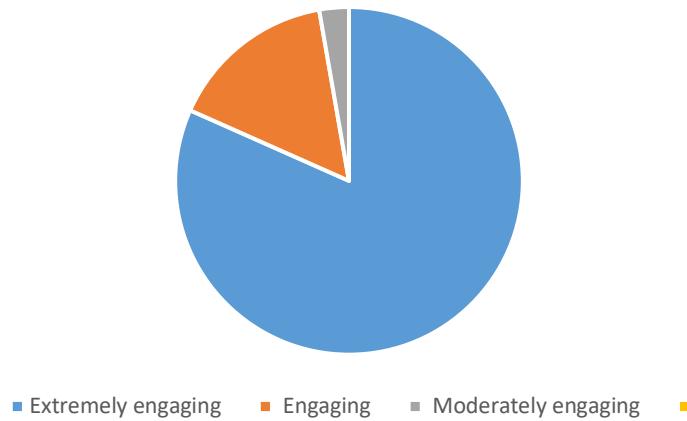
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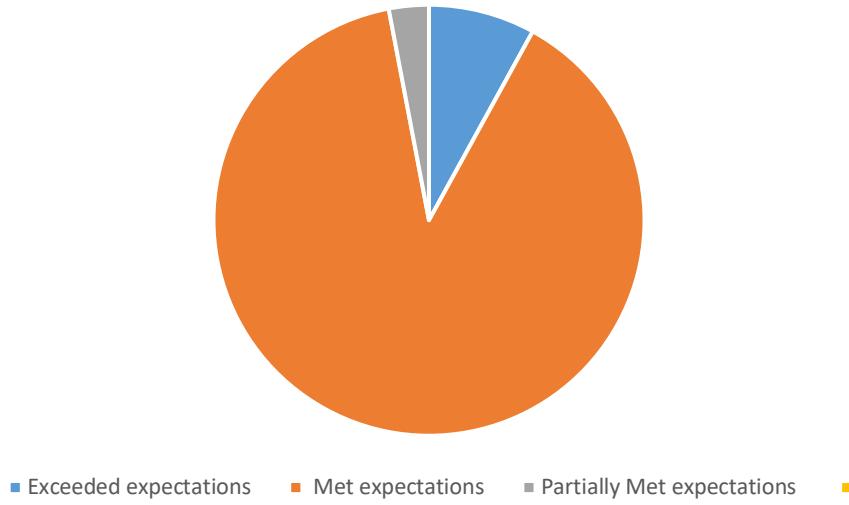
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3) How engaging were the speakers and resource persons
of the programme?



4) Did the event meet your expectations



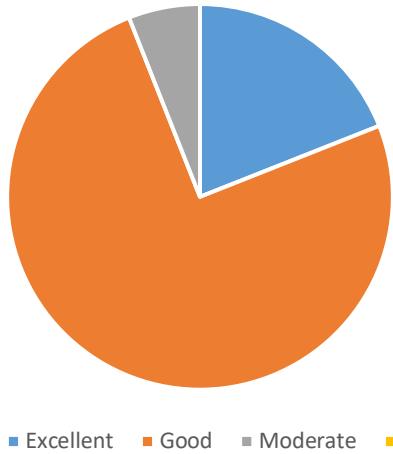
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5) How were the arrangements by the organising committee?



6) Any Suggestions?

No suggestions in particular

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