



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

Title of the Event	Seminar and Themed Reading Day: “Lala Lajpat Rai: The Lion of Punjab and His Vision for National Education and Social Empowerment”		
Date of the Event	28 th January 2025	Place of the event	Reading Hall, St. Vincent College
Objectives of the Event	The seminar and Themed Reading Day aimed to honor Lala Lajpat Rai Jayanti by exploring his contributions as a nationalist, educationist, and social reformer, while highlighting the alignment between his vision of constructive patriotism and St. Vincent College’s values of service, justice, and ethical leadership. It sought to inspire students to view nation-building as a holistic endeavor rooted in education, institution-building, and civic courage.		
Name/s of the Resource Persons	Dr. Anil Adsule		
A short narration of the program			
Seminar and Themed Reading Day: “Lala Lajpat Rai: The Lion of Punjab and His Vision for National Education and Social Empowerment”			
On 28th January 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, commemorated Lala Lajpat Rai Jayanti with a scholarly and inspiring academic program titled “Lala Lajpat Rai: The Lion of Punjab and His Vision for National Education and Social Empowerment.” The event, structured as a seminar followed by a Themed Reading Day, was held in the college’s library and seminar hall—spaces chosen to reflect Rai’s lifelong conviction that “education is the birthright of every individual and the foundation of national regeneration.” As an institution committed to social justice, inclusive education, and ethical leadership, St. Vincent College finds deep resonance in Lala Lajpat Rai’s legacy as a freedom fighter, educationist, social reformer, and institution-builder who championed self-reliance, rationalism, and service to the marginalized. This program served both as a tribute to his multifaceted contributions and as a reaffirmation of the college’s alignment with his ideals of intellectual empowerment, civic courage, and nation-building through grassroots action. The day began with a solemn tribute to Lala Lajpat Rai, marked by the lighting of a ceremonial lamp and the recitation of his stirring words: “The progress of a nation depends upon the spirit of its youth.” Excerpts from his speeches, writings, and letters—particularly those emphasizing national education, economic self-			



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sufficiency, and the upliftment of the oppressed—were read aloud in Hindi and English. These selections set a tone of intellectual vigor and moral urgency, inviting participants to engage with Rai not merely as a historical icon but as a pragmatic visionary whose ideas remain strikingly relevant.

The formal proceedings were inaugurated by Dr. Anil Adsule, Principal of St. Vincent College. In his address, Dr. Adsule positioned Lala Lajpat Rai as a bridge between patriotism and social reform, highlighting his unique synthesis of nationalist fervor and humanitarian action. He underscored Rai's role as a co-founder of the Arya Samaj-inspired educational movement and his instrumental contribution to establishing institutions such as the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic (D.A.V.) College Trust, which sought to provide modern, value-based education rooted in Indian ethos yet open to global knowledge. Dr. Adsule emphasized that Rai's advocacy for the rights of farmers, laborers, and students—epitomized in his leadership during the anti-Rowlatt Act protests and his famous slogan "Simon Go Back!"—demonstrates his unwavering commitment to democratic dissent and civic responsibility. "Lala Lajpat Rai believed that true freedom begins not with political independence alone, but with the empowerment of every citizen through knowledge, dignity, and opportunity," Dr. Adsule remarked. "This vision aligns profoundly with our Jesuit mission to educate not just for success, but for service and justice."

This was followed by a comprehensive lecture by Dr. Yogesh Mate, who provided historical and intellectual context to Rai's life and legacy. Dr. Mate traced Rai's evolution from a young Arya Samaj reformer to a leading figure of the Lal-Bal-Pal triumvirate, noting how his activism was always grounded in constructive work. He explored Rai's seminal writings, including "The Story of My Deportation" and "Young India," which articulated a vision of nationalism that rejected blind imitation of the West while embracing scientific temper and social equity. Dr. Mate highlighted Rai's pioneering efforts in establishing orphanages, vocational training centers, and cooperative societies—demonstrating his belief that social reform and political struggle must go hand in hand. He also addressed Rai's internationalist outlook, including his time in the United States, where he founded the Indian Home Rule Society and advocated for India's cause on global platforms. "Rai was not just a protester; he was a builder," Dr. Mate observed. "His legacy reminds us that patriotism is as much about creating institutions as it is about resisting oppression."



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The Themed Reading Day formed the experiential core of the program. Students and faculty engaged in small-group readings of Rai's essays on education, nationalism, and social justice, alongside analyses of his role in the Non-Cooperation Movement and his critique of colonial economic policies. Facilitated discussions explored themes such as the ethics of dissent, the role of youth in democratic renewal, and the relevance of Swadeshi in contemporary economic debates. The college library hosted a curated exhibition featuring archival photographs, reproductions of Rai's editorials from The Punjabee newspaper, timelines of his institutional contributions, and student reflections on how his ideals of courage, integrity, and service inspire their own academic and civic aspirations.

Given St. Vincent College's emphasis on community engagement and ethical leadership, many participants drew connections between Rai's model of "constructive nationalism" and their own involvement in outreach programs, student governance, and advocacy initiatives. Several students noted how his emphasis on self-discipline, rational inquiry, and moral clarity offers a compelling counterpoint to apathy and cynicism in public life.

The event concluded with a collective reading of Rai's final message to the youth: "Do not fear. Stand up and speak the truth. The nation needs your voice, your courage, and your conscience." This was not presented as historical rhetoric, but as a living call to action.

In its execution, the seminar avoided uncritical celebration, instead presenting Lala Lajpat Rai as a dynamic, principled, and institutionally minded leader whose life offers enduring lessons in combining idealism with pragmatism. By weaving his legacy into academic discourse and moral formation, St. Vincent College honored not just the memory of a freedom fighter, but the continuing relevance of his vision: a nation built not on slogans, but on schools, cooperatives, and the quiet courage of ordinary citizens committed to justice. Through this event, the college reaffirmed its place within India's rich tradition of enlightened patriotism—a tradition that Lala Lajpat Rai helped define and that continues to shape its educational mission.

Name of the Collaborating Agency	Library, St. Vincent College
Learning Outcomes of the	Participants gained a nuanced understanding of Lala Lajpat Rai's philosophy beyond his role as a freedom fighter, appreciating his emphasis on national education, economic



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Event for the Participants	self-reliance, and grassroots social reform. They were motivated to embody his ideals through active citizenship, critical engagement with societal issues, and a commitment to building inclusive communities.
Learning Outcomes for the Organizing team	The organizing team strengthened their ability to design historically grounded, values-based academic programs that connect nationalist legacy with contemporary civic responsibility. They also enhanced their skills in curating multidisciplinary content, facilitating reflective dialogue on ethical leadership, and integrating institutional identity with India's broader tradition of constructive patriotism.
No. of Participants	50+ Participants and Faculty members
Faculty in Charge	Dr. Yogesh Mate
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