



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

Title of the Event	Seminar and Themed Reading Day: “Gandhi’s Moral Compass: Truth, Non-Violence, and the Relevance of Ethical Living in the 21st Century”		
Date of the Event	30 th January 2025	Place of the event	St. Vincent College
Objectives of the Event	The seminar and Themed Reading Day aimed to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi Punyatithi by critically engaging with his ethical philosophy—particularly Satya, Ahimsa, and Sarvodaya—and reaffirming St. Vincent College’s alignment with his values of truth, non-violence, simplicity, and service. It sought to inspire students to apply Gandhian principles to contemporary personal, social, and civic challenges.		
Name/s of the Resource Persons	Dr. Anil Adsule		
A short narration of the program			
Seminar and Themed Reading Day: “Gandhi’s Moral Compass: Truth, Non-Violence, and the Relevance of Ethical Living in the 21st Century”			
On 30th January 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, observed Mahatma Gandhi Punyatithi—the solemn anniversary of his martyrdom—with a deeply reflective academic program titled “Gandhi’s Moral Compass: Truth, Non-Violence, and the Relevance of Ethical Living in the 21st Century.” 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 embody Gandhi’s belief that “the best education is that which draws out the best in a person: body, mind, and spirit.” As an institution rooted in Jesuit values of justice, compassion, and service to the marginalized, St. Vincent College has long found profound alignment with Gandhi’s core principles: Satya (Truth), Ahimsa (Non-violence), Sarvodaya (Welfare of All), and Nai Talim (Basic Education). This program served not only as a tribute to the Mahatma’s life and sacrifice but as a reaffirmation of the college’s enduring commitment to fostering ethical leadership, social harmony, and conscientious citizenship in an increasingly polarized world. The day began in quiet solemnity with a two-minute silence, followed by the lighting of a memorial lamp and the recitation of his favorite bhajan, “Vaishnava Jana To,” whose lyrics encapsulate his vision of empathy and moral responsibility. Selected excerpts from Gandhi’s writings, including passages from			



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“Hind Swaraj,” his letters on non-violence, and reflections on education and self-reliance, were read aloud in both English and Hindi. These moments established a contemplative atmosphere, inviting participants to move beyond ritual remembrance toward critical and personal engagement with Gandhi’s ethical framework.

The formal proceedings were inaugurated by Dr. Anil Adsule, Principal of St. Vincent College. In his address, Dr. Adsule emphasized that Gandhi’s relevance today lies not in his historical role alone, but in his enduring challenge to live with integrity in everyday life. He highlighted how Gandhi’s concept of Swaraj—self-rule—was as much an inner discipline as a political goal, requiring constant self-examination and alignment of thought, word, and action. Dr. Adsule drew direct parallels between Gandhi’s emphasis on simplicity, service, and truth and the college’s educational philosophy: “Our mission to form ‘men and women for others’ echoes Gandhi’s call to see the divine in the poorest and most vulnerable. His life reminds us that education without ethics is dangerous; knowledge without compassion is hollow.” He urged students to view Gandhi not as a distant icon but as a practical moral guide whose tools—non-violent communication, constructive work, and community engagement—remain vital for addressing contemporary crises, from social fragmentation to environmental degradation.

This was followed by an insightful lecture by Dr. Yogesh Mate, who provided historical and philosophical context to Gandhi’s thought while addressing common misconceptions about his ideals. Dr. Mate explored how Gandhi’s philosophy of Ahimsa was not passive submission but an active, courageous force rooted in love and justice—a principle he termed “soul-force” (Satyagraha). He examined Gandhi’s experiments with Nai Talim, which integrated manual labor, moral development, and intellectual learning as a holistic alternative to colonial education. Dr. Mate also addressed Gandhi’s complex views on modernity, technology, and economic justice, noting his warnings against unchecked industrialization and his advocacy for village self-sufficiency as a model of sustainable development. Crucially, he emphasized that Gandhi’s commitment to pluralism—evident in his lifelong defense of religious harmony and opposition to communalism—offers a powerful antidote to rising intolerance. “Gandhi’s greatest lesson,” Dr. Mate concluded, “is that change begins not with transforming the world, but with transforming oneself.”



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The Themed Reading Day formed the experiential heart of the program. Students and faculty engaged in small-group readings of Gandhi's key texts, including selections from "The Story of My Experiments with Truth," his letters to young Indians, and his writings on Harijan welfare and communal unity. Facilitated discussions explored themes such as the practice of non-violence in digital spaces, the ethics of consumption, the role of silence in leadership, and the relevance of Swadeshi in an age of global inequality. The college library hosted a curated exhibition featuring first editions of Gandhi's works, archival photographs from the Salt March and Quit India Movement, reproductions of his spinning wheel (charkha), and student reflections on "What Gandhi Means to Me"—ranging from commitments to reduce waste to pledges for respectful dialogue across differences.

Given the college's emphasis on social outreach and ethical formation, many participants connected Gandhi's ideals to their own community service projects, academic choices, and interpersonal relationships. Several students noted how his emphasis on "being the change" resonates with their desire to lead lives of purpose beyond professional success.

The event concluded with a collective reaffirmation of Gandhi's "Seven Social Sins"—including "politics without principle" and "commerce without morality"—as a moral checklist for personal and public life. Participants left not with answers, but with questions: How do we practice truth in an age of misinformation? How do we resist injustice without hatred? How do we build communities grounded in mutual care?

In its tone and execution, the seminar avoided idealization, instead presenting Gandhi as a deeply human figure whose experiments with truth remain unfinished—and entrusted to each generation. By integrating scholarly discourse, textual immersion, and ethical reflection, St. Vincent College honored Mahatma Gandhi not merely as the Father of the Nation, but as a timeless moral companion whose compass continues to guide the pursuit of a more just, peaceful, and truthful world. Through this event, the college reaffirmed its conviction that education, at its best, is a Gandhian act—rooted in service, shaped by conscience, and aimed at the upliftment of all.

Name of the
Collaborating
Agency

Library, St. Vincent College



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Learning Outcomes of the Event for the Participants	Participants deepened their understanding of Gandhi's thought beyond symbolic reverence, exploring the practical relevance of his ideas on ethical living, conflict resolution, and sustainable development. They were encouraged to reflect on their own roles as responsible citizens and to integrate principles of compassion, integrity, and non-violent action into their daily lives and future professions.
Learning Outcomes for the Organizing team	The organizing team enhanced their capacity to design contemplative, values-driven academic programs that bridge historical legacy with present-day ethical dilemmas. They also refined their skills in curating immersive learning experiences, facilitating reflective dialogue on moral philosophy, and anchoring institutional identity in enduring humanistic traditions.
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