



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

Title of the Event	Seminar and Themed Reading Day: “Awakening the Youth: Swami Vivekananda’s Vision for a Resurgent India”		
Date of the Event	12th January 2025	Place of the event	Library Reading Hall, St. Vincent College, Pune
Objectives of the Event	The seminar and Themed Reading Day aimed to commemorate Swami Vivekananda Jayanti (Rashtriya Yuva Diwas) by critically engaging with his philosophy of self-reliance, character-based education, and youth empowerment. It sought to reinforce St. Vincent College’s institutional values—rooted in ethical leadership and service—through the lens of Vivekananda’s vision for a spiritually grounded and socially responsible citizenry.		
Name/s of the Resource Persons	Dr. Anil Adsule		
A short narration of the program			
Seminar and Themed Reading Day: “Awakening the Youth: Swami Vivekananda’s Vision for a Resurgent India”			
On 12th January 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, observed Swami Vivekananda Jayanti—also commemorated nationally as Rashtriya Yuva Diwas (National Youth Day)—with a deeply reflective and intellectually vibrant program titled “Awakening the Youth: Swami Vivekananda’s Vision for a Resurgent India.” The event, comprising a scholarly seminar followed by a Themed Reading Day, was held in the college’s library and seminar hall, spaces chosen to embody Vivekananda’s belief that “education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man.” As an institution committed to holistic development, ethical leadership, and service to society, St. Vincent College has long drawn inspiration from Swami Vivekananda’s teachings, particularly his emphasis on self-confidence, spiritual strength, rational inquiry, and the pivotal role of youth in nation-building. This program served both as a tribute to his enduring legacy and as a reaffirmation of the college’s alignment with his humanistic and patriotic ideals. The day commenced with a moment of silent reflection, followed by the recitation of select passages from Swami Vivekananda’s iconic Chicago Address of 1893 and his letters on education and character-building. These excerpts—marked by their universalism, intellectual vigor, and call for inner strength—set a contemplative yet energizing tone, inviting students, faculty, and staff to engage with Vivekananda not as			



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a distant spiritual figure, but as a practical philosopher whose ideas remain urgently relevant to contemporary challenges in education, ethics, and national identity.

The formal proceedings were inaugurated by Dr. Anil Adsule, Principal of St. Vincent College. In his address, Dr. Adsule underscored how Swami Vivekananda's life and message resonate profoundly with the college's Jesuit educational ethos, particularly the ideals of "men and women for others" and the formation of "competent, compassionate, and committed" individuals. He highlighted Vivekananda's assertion that "the only solution to India's problems is to organize the youth," and drew parallels between this vision and the college's sustained efforts to nurture socially conscious, intellectually agile, and ethically grounded graduates. Dr. Adsule emphasized that Vivekananda's concept of "man-making education"—which prioritizes character over rote learning—mirrors the institution's pedagogical approach. "In a world marked by fragmentation and uncertainty," he noted, "Vivekananda's call for fearlessness (Abhaya), self-reliance (Atma-vishwas), and service (Seva) offers a compass for our students as they prepare to lead with integrity." This was followed by an erudite lecture by Dr. Yogesh Mate, who provided historical and philosophical context to Vivekananda's thought. Dr. Mate traced the evolution of Vivekananda's ideas from his early discipleship under Sri Ramakrishna to his global advocacy for Vedanta as a rational, inclusive spiritual philosophy. He explored how Vivekananda redefined religion not as dogma but as "realization"—a lived experience of unity and compassion. Dr. Mate particularly focused on Vivekananda's vision for India's youth: not as passive recipients of knowledge, but as dynamic agents of social regeneration. He cited Vivekananda's belief that "the history of the world is the history of a few men who had faith in themselves," urging students to cultivate inner strength as the foundation for external impact. The lecture also examined Vivekananda's progressive views on women's education, scientific temper, and interfaith harmony—values that continue to inform national discourse and institutional practice.

The Themed Reading Day formed the experiential core of the program. Students and faculty participated in small-group readings of Vivekananda's speeches, letters, and essays from "Raja Yoga," "Karma Yoga," and "Inspired Talks." Facilitated discussions explored themes such as the synthesis of spirituality and science, the dignity of labor, the importance of mental discipline, and the ethical responsibilities of the



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educated citizen. The college library hosted a curated exhibition featuring first editions of Vivekananda's works, archival photographs from the 1893 Parliament of Religions, timelines of his travels, and student-authored reflections on how his ideas influence their academic and personal aspirations.

Special emphasis was placed on connecting Vivekananda's message to current realities: participants debated how his call for "arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached" can inspire action on issues ranging from mental health and digital distraction to civic apathy and environmental stewardship. Many students noted how his emphasis on self-respect and critical thinking aligns with their own journey of identity formation in a complex, globalized world.

The event concluded with a collective reading of Vivekananda's pledge: "I am the Soul. I am free. I am existence, knowledge, and bliss absolute." This affirmation was not presented as mere ritual, but as an invitation to embody inner freedom and purpose—a fitting close to a day that sought to awaken both intellect and spirit.

In its structure and spirit, the seminar and Themed Reading Day remained grounded in academic rigor while radiating moral urgency. It avoided uncritical celebration, instead presenting Swami Vivekananda as a dynamic thinker whose vision demands active engagement, not passive admiration. By weaving his timeless ideals into the fabric of institutional life, St. Vincent College reaffirmed its commitment to shaping youth who are not only skilled professionals but also courageous, compassionate, and conscious citizens—true torchbearers of Vivekananda's dream for a resurgent India.

Name of the Collaborating Agency	Library, St. Vincent College
Learning Outcomes of the Event for the Participants	Participants deepened their understanding of Swami Vivekananda's teachings through direct engagement with his writings and scholarly interpretation, connecting his ideas on fearlessness, rational spirituality, and nation-building to contemporary personal and societal challenges. They were inspired to cultivate inner strength, critical thinking, and a sense of duty toward collective progress.
Learning Outcomes for the Organizing team	The organizing team enhanced their ability to design intellectually substantive and values-driven academic events that bridge philosophical heritage with present-day relevance. They also refined their skills in thematic curation, interdisciplinary dialogue



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	facilitation, and creating reflective spaces that align institutional identity with national ideals of youth development.
No. of Participants	50+ students 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