



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

Title of the Event	Seminar and Themed Reading Day: “Mahadev Govind Ranade: Visionary of Social Reform and Nation-Building”		
Date of the Event	18th January 2025	Place of the event	St. Vincent College, Pune
Objectives of the Event	The seminar and Themed Reading Day aimed to honor Mahadev Govind Ranade Jayanti by critically examining his contributions as a jurist, social reformer, and nation-builder, while highlighting the alignment between his values—reason, gradual reform, and civic responsibility—and St. Vincent College’s educational ethos. It sought to inspire students to engage thoughtfully with India’s liberal reform tradition and its relevance to contemporary social and ethical challenges.		
Name/s of the Resource Persons	Dr. Anil Adsule		
A short narration of the program			
Seminar and Themed Reading Day: “Mahadev Govind Ranade: Visionary of Social Reform and Nation-Building”			
On 18th January 2025, St. Vincent College, Pune, commemorated Mahadev Govind Ranade Jayanti with a scholarly and reflective academic program titled “Mahadev Govind Ranade: Visionary of Social Reform and Nation-Building.” 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 honor Ranade’s lifelong belief in reason, education, and ethical governance as pillars of societal progress. As an institution committed to justice, intellectual inquiry, and social responsibility, St. Vincent College has long found resonance in Ranade’s legacy as a jurist, economist, educationist, and pioneering social reformer who championed rationalism, women’s rights, and institutional modernization in 19th-century India. This program served both as a tribute to his enduring contributions and as a reaffirmation of the college’s alignment with his humanistic and reformist ideals. The day began with a moment of solemn remembrance, marked by the lighting of a lamp and the reading of excerpts from Ranade’s speeches and writings that emphasized his core principles: the harmony between tradition and progress, the moral imperative of social reform, and the role of educated citizens in shaping public life. These selections—drawn from his addresses to the Prarthana Samaj and his judicial			



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commentaries—set a tone of thoughtful engagement, inviting participants to view Ranade not merely as a historical figure but as a guiding intellect for contemporary civic discourse.

The formal proceedings were inaugurated by Dr. Anil Adsule, Principal of St. Vincent College. In his address, Dr. Adsule situated Ranade as a foundational architect of modern Indian liberalism whose work bridged spirituality, law, and social ethics. He highlighted Ranade’s instrumental role in founding institutions such as the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, the Deccan Education Society, and Fergusson College—all of which sought to democratize knowledge and foster public reasoning. Dr. Adsule emphasized that Ranade’s advocacy for widow remarriage, opposition to child marriage, and support for women’s education were not isolated campaigns but part of a coherent vision for a just and rational society. “Ranade believed that reform must be gradual but relentless,” he noted, “rooted in persuasion, not coercion—a principle that aligns deeply with our Jesuit ethos of forming consciences through dialogue and discernment.” He further underscored how the college’s commitment to inclusive education, ethical leadership, and community engagement reflects Ranade’s conviction that “the true test of civilization is how it treats its most vulnerable.”

This was followed by a comprehensive lecture by Dr. Yogesh Mate, who provided historical and intellectual context to Ranade’s multifaceted legacy. Dr. Mate traced Ranade’s evolution from a colonial-era judge to a leading voice of the “Moderate” nationalist movement, emphasizing his unique synthesis of Western liberal thought and Indian ethical traditions. He explored Ranade’s economic writings, particularly his critiques of colonial fiscal policy and his advocacy for indigenous industrial development, noting their relevance to contemporary debates on self-reliance and equitable growth. Dr. Mate also examined Ranade’s philosophical stance within the Prarthana Samaj, where he promoted a rational, non-ritualistic spirituality focused on social service. Crucially, he addressed the often-overlooked nuance in Ranade’s reformism: his belief that change must emerge from within society through education and moral suasion, rather than through legislative imposition alone—a perspective that invites reflection in today’s polarized public sphere.



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The Themed Reading Day formed the experiential heart of the program. Students and faculty engaged in small-group readings of Ranade's essays, judicial opinions, and letters, including selections from "Rise of the Maratha Power" and his speeches on social reform. Facilitated discussions explored themes such as the ethics of gradualism, the role of the intelligentsia in democracy, and the tension between cultural preservation and progressive change. The college library hosted a curated exhibition featuring rare photographs, first editions of Ranade's works, archival documents from the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, and timelines mapping his institutional contributions to Pune's civic landscape.

Given that St. Vincent College is located in the very city where Ranade lived, taught, and transformed public life, the event carried strong local significance. Several students shared reflections on visiting Ranade's memorial at the Pune Municipal Corporation and Fergusson College, noting how his physical and intellectual footprint remains embedded in the urban fabric of Pune. This geographical proximity deepened their sense of historical continuity and civic responsibility.

The program concluded with a collective reflection on Ranade's oft-quoted maxim: "Conserve what is sound, reform what is unsound." Participants were encouraged to apply this principle to their own roles as students, educators, and future leaders—balancing respect for heritage with the courage to challenge injustice.

In its tone and execution, the seminar avoided hagiography, instead presenting Mahadev Govind Ranade as a complex, pragmatic, and deeply principled thinker whose ideas demand ongoing engagement. By integrating scholarly discourse, textual immersion, and institutional values, St. Vincent College honored not just the memory of a great reformer, but the living relevance of his vision: a society shaped by reason, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the common good. Through this event, the college reaffirmed its place within Pune's rich tradition of enlightened citizenship—a tradition that Ranade helped define and that continues to inspire its educational mission.

Name of the Collaborating Agency	Library , St. Vincent College
Learning Outcomes of the	Participants gained a nuanced understanding of Ranade's philosophy through direct engagement with his writings and scholarly analysis, appreciating his balanced



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Event for the Participants	approach to tradition and progress. They were encouraged to reflect on the role of educated citizens in fostering inclusive, rational, and compassionate public discourse in today's society.
Learning Outcomes for the Organizing team	The organizing team strengthened their capacity to design intellectually rigorous, historically grounded programs that connect local heritage with institutional values. They also enhanced their skills in curating thematic academic content, facilitating interdisciplinary dialogue, and fostering civic consciousness through reflective pedagogy.
No. of Participants	50+ Participants
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