



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

Title of the Event	Gandhi Jayanti Commemoration: Seminar and Themed Reading Day		
Date of the Event	October 3, 2025	Place of the event	Library Reading Room, St. Vincent College
Objectives of the Event	To commemorate Gandhi Jayanti by fostering deep intellectual and ethical engagement with Gandhian philosophy—specifically the interlinked ideals of Swaraj (self-rule) and Sarvodaya (welfare of all)—through a seminar and silent reading session that encouraged critical reflection, moral inquiry, and contemporary relevance.		
Name/s of the Resource Persons	Dr. Anil Adsule and Dr. Yogesh Mate		
A short narration of the program			
Gandhi Jayanti Commemoration: Seminar and Themed Reading Day In observance of Mahatma Gandhi’s 156th birth anniversary, St. Vincent College, Pune, organized a thoughtfully curated commemorative program on October 3, 2025, centered on the enduring relevance of Gandhian thought in contemporary society. Held in the serene and intellectually resonant setting of the College Library Reading Room, the event comprised a thematic seminar followed by a Gandhi-themed silent reading session, embodying the college’s commitment to reflective learning, ethical inquiry, and civic consciousness. Theme of the Event The program was anchored in the theme “Sarvodaya through Swaraj: Reimagining Self-Rule and Collective Welfare in the 21st Century.” Drawing from Gandhi’s seminal work Hind Swaraj and his vision of Sarvodaya—the welfare of all—the theme invited participants to critically engage with the interdependence of individual moral autonomy (Swaraj) and inclusive social progress (Sarvodaya). In an era marked by political polarization, ecological crisis, and digital alienation, the theme served as a timely call to re-examine Gandhi’s integrated philosophy of personal discipline, nonviolent resistance, economic self-reliance, and participatory democracy. Seminar Proceedings The seminar commenced at 10:00 AM with a welcome address by the Librarian, Dr. Yogesh Mate, who emphasized the library’s role as a space not only for knowledge acquisition but for moral and civic			



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reflection. He underscored Gandhi's lifelong engagement with books, noting that Gandhi's own intellectual journey was deeply shaped by reading—from Tolstoy and Ruskin to the Bhagavad Gita—and that the day's reading session would honor this legacy through active, contemplative engagement with primary Gandhian texts.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Anil Adsule, Principal of St. Vincent College, whose lecture, titled "Swaraj as Ethical Praxis: From Inner Discipline to Social Transformation," offered a nuanced exposition of Gandhi's concept of self-rule. Dr. Adsule distinguished Swaraj from mere political independence, framing it instead as a continuous process of self-mastery, truth-seeking (Satya), and responsibility toward the marginalized. He argued that in today's context, Swaraj must be reclaimed as a counter to consumerism, misinformation, and passive citizenship—urging students to cultivate "inner sovereignty" through critical thinking, digital mindfulness, and community service.

Dr. Adsule further linked Swaraj to Sarvodaya, illustrating how Gandhi envisioned economic systems rooted in trusteeship, village self-sufficiency (Gram Swaraj), and non-exploitative labor. He cited contemporary examples—such as cooperative movements, ethical fintech, and climate justice activism—as modern manifestations of Gandhian principles. His address concluded with a challenge to the student community: "True freedom begins not when you can do what you want, but when you choose what is right—even when no one is watching."

Themed Silent Reading Session

Following the seminar, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, participants engaged in a silent, reflective reading session in the Library Reading Room. Curated selections from Gandhi's writings were made available, including excerpts from Hind Swaraj, The Story of My Experiments with Truth, letters on nonviolence, and his essays on education (Nai Talim) and sustainability. Additional materials included scholarly commentaries on Gandhian economics, environmental ethics, and peacebuilding.

Students, faculty, and staff read individually yet communally, embodying Gandhi's belief in shanti (peace) as an active, inward discipline. Soft instrumental renditions of Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram played in the background, enhancing the contemplative atmosphere without disrupting focus. At the session's close,



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several students voluntarily shared brief reflections, noting how Gandhi's emphasis on simplicity and moral consistency resonated with their own aspirations for purposeful living.

Outcomes and Significance

The event successfully transcended ceremonial observance, fostering a space for intellectual and ethical engagement with Gandhi's philosophy. By situating the program in the library—a symbol of reasoned discourse—the college reinforced its pedagogical ethos: that education must cultivate not only competence but conscience.

The integration of scholarly discourse (seminar) and meditative practice (reading) mirrored Gandhi's own life, where action and reflection were inseparable. Feedback from participants highlighted the program's depth, relevance, and departure from performative commemorations, with many expressing interest in forming a Gandhi Study Circle for sustained dialogue.

Conclusion

The Gandhi Jayanti commemoration at St. Vincent College on October 3, 2025, reaffirmed Mahatma Gandhi not as a historical relic but as a living interlocutor in the quest for a just, sustainable, and compassionate society. Through the leadership of Dr. Anil Adsule and Dr. Yogesh Mate, and the thoughtful design of the seminar and reading session, the college honored Gandhi's legacy in the most authentic way possible: by inviting its community to think deeply, read critically, and act ethically—today and every day.

Name of the Collaborating Agency	Library, St. Vincent College
Learning Outcomes of the Event for the Participants	Participants gained a nuanced understanding of Gandhi's vision beyond historical symbolism, recognizing Swaraj as inner discipline and ethical agency, and Sarvodaya as a framework for inclusive development—inspiring them to apply Gandhian values like truth, simplicity, and service in personal, academic, and civic life.
Learning Outcomes for the Organizing team	The organizing team strengthened their capacity to design contemplative, values-based academic events that integrate scholarly discourse with experiential learning, while reinforcing the library's role as a space for both intellectual growth and moral formation aligned with the college's educational mission.
No. of Participants	50+ plus students and faculty members of St. Vincent College



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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