



## SNDT Women's University, Mumbai

S.N.D.T. College of Education, Pune

Academic Year 2025-2026

### Report on Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj Jayanti Celebration

Date: 26 June 2025

Venue: SNDT College of Education, Pune

#### Introduction

**Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj Jayanti** was celebrated with great enthusiasm on **26 June 2025** at SNDT College of Education, Pune. The event was organized to honor the visionary leader who dedicated his life to the upliftment of marginalized communities and promoted education for all.



Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj (1874–1922), the ruler of the princely state of Kolhapur, was a visionary social reformer and a pioneer of social justice in India. Known as the "Rajarshi" or "saint king," he dedicated his reign to the upliftment of the marginalized and backward sections of society. In 1902, he implemented one of India's first affirmative action policies by reserving 50% of government jobs for the backward castes—a revolutionary step

towards social equality. He strongly believed in the power of education and introduced free and compulsory primary education, established hostels for different communities, promoted girls' education, and offered scholarships, including for overseas studies. Shahu Maharaj was also committed to economic development, supporting cooperative movements, building irrigation systems like the Radhanagari Dam, and encouraging industrial ventures. He worked to eradicate caste discrimination by ensuring equal access to schools, hospitals, and temples for Dalits, and challenged the monopoly of Brahmins in religious practices. A patron of arts, sports, and culture, he also championed women's rights through educational initiatives and social reforms. His policies laid the foundation for modern reservation systems and deeply influenced leaders like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Shahu Maharaj remains a symbol of progressive leadership and social justice in Indian history.

#### Guests and Faculty Present

The program was graced by the presence of our respected faculty members and staff:

Dr. Usha More Ma'am

Dr. Mahesh Koltame Sir

Asst.Prof.Priya Kalyankar Ma'am

Dr.Sarika Bahirat Ma'am

And all other teaching and non-teaching staff members

#### Program Proceedings

The event was skillfully anchored by Bhagyashree, a B.Ed. first-year student. It began with a warm welcome and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries. Following this, Asst.Prof. Priya kalyankar Ma'am spoke about the life and contributions of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, emphasizing his remarkable work towards social reform, education, equality, society cleanliness, widow remarriage and many more.



Dr. Mahesh Koltame Sir highlighted the progressive policies of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, especially his contributions to social justice and reservation in education and employment. Sir also gave a light on the importance of celebrating Jayanti of such great personalities. Dr Usha More Ma'am guided students to draw inspiration from his principles and follow his path of compassion and service. Dr. Sarika Bahirat Ma'am also shared her views on Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj's visionary leadership and commitment to empowering all sections of society.

Students of the B.Ed. classes enthusiastically participated with speeches, poems, and presentations, reflecting Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj's invaluable contributions. The teaching and non-teaching staff supported the event, ensuring its smooth conduct. Finally, the program concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks given by Aditi, appreciating all who attended and participated.

### Conclusion

The celebration was both informative and inspiring, successfully reminding everyone present of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj's enduring legacy. It encouraged future teachers to embrace his principles of social justice and work toward creating an inclusive and equitable society through education.