

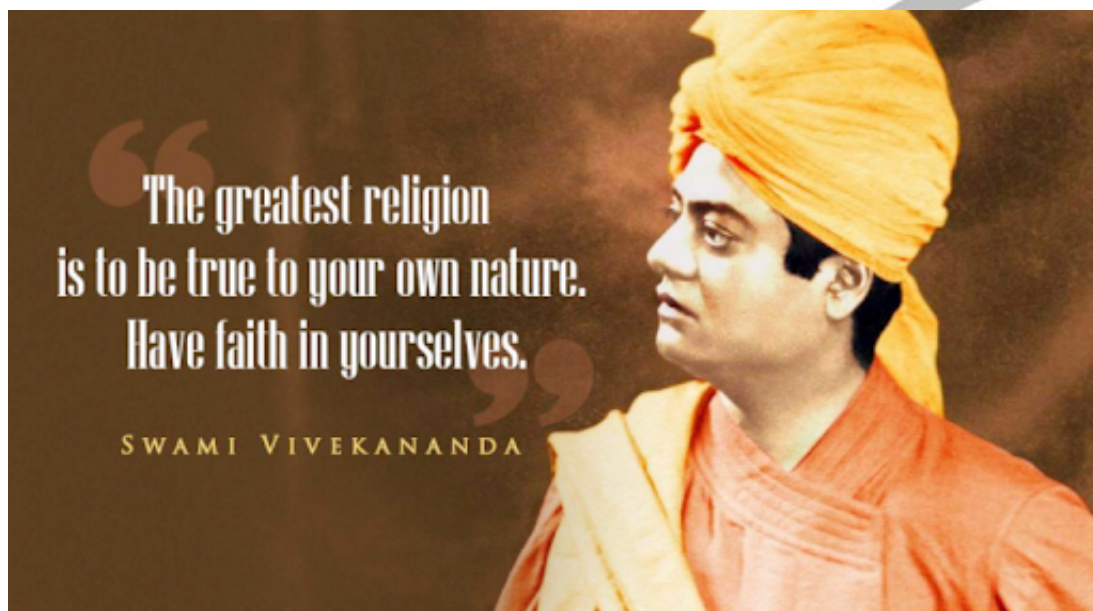


# Swami Vivekananda

## Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister of India **recalled Swami Vivekananda's iconic 1893 speech at Chicago** and said its spirit has the potential to create a more just, prosperous, and inclusive planet.

- [Swami Vivekananda](#), is regarded as a one of the finest spiritual leaders and intellects India has produced.



## Key Points

- **Birth:** He was born as Narendranath Datta on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1863.
  - [National Youth Day](#) is held every year to observe the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
  - In 1893, upon the request of Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State, he took the name 'Vivekananda.'
- **Contributions:**
  - Introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of [Vedanta and Yoga](#).
    - He preached '**neo-Vedanta**', an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed **in combining spirituality with material progress**.
  - Laid the greatest emphasis on education for the regeneration of our motherland. Advocated a **man-making character-building education**.
  - Best known for his speech at the World Parliament of Religion in Chicago in 1893.
  - Spelt out the four pathways of attaining moksha from the worldly pleasure and attachment in his books - **Raja-yoga, Karma-yoga, Jnana-yoga and Bhakti-yoga**.

- [Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose](#) had called Vivekananda the “**maker of modern India.**”
- **Associated Organisations:**
  - He was the chief **disciple of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century mystic Ramakrishna Paramhansa** and established the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897.
    - Ramakrishna Mission is an organization which works in the area of value-based education, culture, health, women's empowerment, youth and tribal welfare and relief and rehabilitation.
  - In 1899, he **established the Belur Math**, which became his permanent abode.
- **Death:** He died at Belur Math in 1902. Belur Math, **located in West Bengal**, is the headquarters of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission.

[Source: PIB](#)

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