



Advaita Ashrama Marks 125th Anniversary

Why in News?

Advaita Ashram in **Mayavati**, a centre of [Ramakrishna Math and Mission](#) in Uttarakhand, is celebrating its **125th anniversary in 2024**.

- A two-day programme was recently held in Mayavati to commemorate the milestone.

Key Points

- The ashram was founded by [Swami Vivekananda](#) in **1899**.
- The objective of the Ashrama is to study, **practice and preach the Advaita philosophy** free from ritualistic settings, and also to train others in spreading it.
 - The Ashrama in a short time became a centre point for the best minds of the East and the West. It helped spread the core Advaita doctrine.
- Advaita Ashrama in Kolkata was established 21 years after Mayavati Ashram to meet the growing demand for its **publications and journal Prabuddha Bharata**.
- [Advaita Vedanta](#) is the core of Hindu Dharma, teaching the oneness of existence and solidarity of the human race.
 - For the past 125 years, Advaita Ashrama has been disseminating principles of Advaita ideology through literature published from its Kolkata branch.

Advaita Vedanta

- It articulates a philosophical position of radical nondualism, a revisionary worldview which it derives from the **ancient Upanishadic texts**.
- According to Advaita Vedantins, the Upanishads reveal a fundamental principle of nonduality termed 'brahman', which is the reality of all things.
- Advaitins understand **brahman as transcending individuality and empirical plurality**. They seek to establish that the **essential core of one's self (atman) is brahman**.
- The fundamental thrust of Advaita Vedanta is that the atman is **pure non-intentional consciousness**.
 - It is one without a second, nondual, infinite existence, and numerically identical with brahman.

Swami Vivekananda

- He was born as **Narendra Nath Datta, on 12th January, 1863**.
- He was a **monk and chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramhansa**.
- He introduced Indian philosophies of **Vedanta and Yoga** to the Western world and is credited with raising interfaith awareness, bringing Hinduism to the world stage during the late 19th century.
- He established **Ramakrishna Mission in 1897**, named after his Guru Swami Ramakrishna Paramhansa. The institution did extensive educational and philanthropic work in India.
- He also represented India in the **first Parliament of Religion held in Chicago (U.S.) in 1893**.

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