



Death Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda

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Why in News?

Every year, **4th July** is observed as the **death anniversary** of [Swami Vivekananda](#). He is considered as the **father of [modern Indian nationalism](#)** and is also credited with **raising interfaith awareness** and bringing **Hinduism to the status of a major world religion** in the late 19th century.

What are the Key Points About Swami Vivekananda?

- **About:** Vivekananda was born as **Narendranath Datta** on **12th January 1863** in Calcutta.
 - In **1893**, upon the request of **Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State**, he **took the name 'Vivekananda.'**
 - He is credited for introducing [yoga and Vedanta](#) to the West.
 - **He died at Belur Math (1902) in West Bengal. It is the headquarters of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission.**
 - [National Youth Day](#) is held every year on **12th January** to observe the **birth anniversary** of Swami Vivekananda.
- **Spiritual Contribution:**
 - He was one of **India's greatest spiritual leaders and intellectuals** and was the chief disciple of the **Ramakrishna Paramhansa**.
 - Vivekananda's message to the world about **human values is rooted in the teachings of the Upanishads and the Gita**, as well as the examples set by the **Buddha and Jesus**.
 - His mission was to **bridge the gap between paramartha (service) and vyavahara (behavior)**, as well as between spirituality and daily life.
 - He advocated the **doctrine of service**. Serving jiva (living beings) is considered worship of Siva.
 - His landmark speech at the Parliament of the [World's Religions in Chicago in 1893](#) introduced Hindu philosophy (neo-Hinduism) to the Western world.
 - He laid emphasis on education for the **regeneration of our motherland**. He advocated a man-making character-building education.
 - He gave the four pathways of attaining moksha from the worldly pleasure and attachment in his books- **Raja-yoga, Karma-yoga, Jnana-yoga and Bhakti-yoga**.
 - He **founded the [Ramakrishna Mission](#) in 1897** to propagate the ideals of service, education, and spiritual upliftment.

Ramakrishna Mission

- **Ramakrishna Mission** carries out extensive **educational and philanthropic work** and expounds a modern version of [Advaita Vedanta](#), a school of Indian philosophy.
- **Two objectives of the Ramakrishna movement were:**
 - to establish a group of **monks committed to a life of renunciation and practical spirituality**, that can **disseminate the universal message of Vedanta**.
 - **preaching and engaging in philanthropic and charitable activities**, viewing all men, women, and children, regardless of caste, creed, or color, as true manifestations of the Divine.

- The mission was **founded near Kolkata by Vivekananda in 1897** with a twofold purpose: to **spread the teachings of Vedanta** as embodied in the life of the saint Ramakrishna (1836–86) and to **improve the social conditions of the Indian people**.
- **Motto: “ATMANO MOKSHARTHAM JAGAD HITAYA CHA”** (“For one’s own salvation and for the welfare of the world”).

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