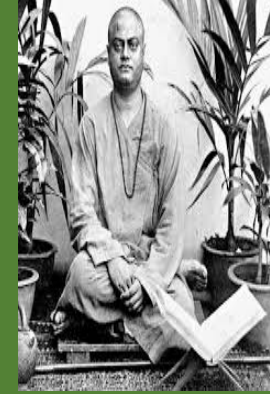




NATIONAL YOUTH DAY 12TH JANUARY, 2021
Birth Anniversary of Swami VIVEKANANDA



Swami Vivekananda, known in his pre-monastic life as **Narendra Nath Datta**, was born in an affluent family in **Kolkata** on 12 January 1863. His father, **Vishwanath Datta**, was a successful attorney with interests in a wide range of subjects, and his mother, **Bhubaneswari Devi**, was endowed with deep devotion, strong character and other qualities. A precocious boy, Narendra excelled in music, gymnastics and studies. By the time he graduated from Calcutta University, he had acquired a vast knowledge of different subjects, especially Western philosophy Christianity, science and history. Social reform became a prominent element of Vivekananda's thought, and he joined the Brahmo Samaj (Society of Brahma), dedicated to eliminating child marriage and illiteracy and determined to spread education among women and



the lower castes. He later became the most-notable disciple of Ramakrishna, who demonstrated the essential unity of all religions.

Always stressing the universal and humanistic side of the Vedas, the oldest sacred texts of Hinduism, as well as belief in service rather than dogma, Vivekananda attempted to infuse vigour into Hindu thought, placing less emphasis on the prevailing pacifism and presenting Hindu spirituality to the

West. He was an activating force in the movement to promote Vedanta philosophy (one of the six schools of Indian philosophy) in the United States and England. In 1893 he appeared in Chicago as a spokesman for Hinduism at the World's Parliament of Religions and so captivated the assembly that a newspaper account described him as "an orator by divine right and undoubtedly the greatest figure at the Parliament."

Thereafter he lectured throughout the United States and England, making converts to the Vedanta movement.



He returned to India in January 1897. In response to the enthusiastic welcome that he received everywhere, he delivered a series of lectures in different parts of India, which created a great stir all over the country. Through these inspiring and profoundly significant lectures Swamiji attempted to do the following:

- to rouse the religious consciousness of the people and create in them pride in their cultural heritage;
- to bring about unification of Hinduism by pointing out the common bases of its sects;

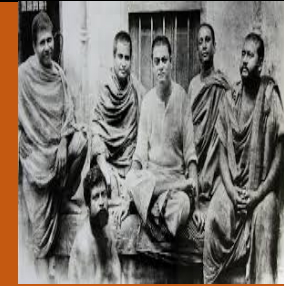




- to focus the attention of educated people on the plight of the downtrodden masses, and to expound his plan for their uplift by the application of the principles of Practical Vedanta.

He founded on **1 May 1897** a unique type of organization known as Ramakrishna Mission, in which monks and lay people would jointly undertake propagation of Practical Vedanta, and various forms of social service, such as running hospitals, schools, colleges, hostels, rural development centres etc, and conducting massive relief and rehabilitation work for victims of earthquakes, cyclones and other calamities, in different parts of India and other countries. In early 1898 Swami Vivekananda acquired a big plot of land on the western bank of the Ganga at a place called Belur to have a permanent abode for the monastery and monastic Order. Here Swamiji established a new, universal pattern of monastic life which adapts ancient monastic ideals to the conditions of modern life, which gives equal importance to personal illumination and social service, and which is open to all men without any distinction of religion, race or caste.

In June 1899 he went to the West on a second visit. This time he spent most of his time in the West coast of USA. After delivering many lectures there, he returned to Belur Math in December 1900. The rest of his life was spent in India, inspiring and guiding people, both monastic and lay. Incessant work, especially giving lectures and inspiring people, told upon Swamiji's health. His health deteriorated and the end came quietly on the night of **4 July 1902**.



Famous Quotes by Swami VIVEKANANDA

1. "A brave, frank, clean-hearted, courageous and aspiring youth is the only foundation on which the future nation can be built."
2. "We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far."
3. "Great work requires great and persistent effort for a long time. Character has to be established through a thousand stumbles."
4. Your aim is yours, so don't change it for others."
5. "Arise, awake and stop not until the goal is reached."
6. "If the mind is intensely eager, everything can be accomplished-mountains can be crumbled into atom."
7. "Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand, do so. If you cannot, fold your hands, bless your brothers, and let them go their own way."
8. "A few heart- whole, sincere, and energetic men and women can do more in a year than a mob in a century."
9. "Face the brutes.' That is a lesson for all life-face the terrible, face it boldly. Like the monkeys, the hardships of life fall back when we cease to flee before them."
10. "In a day, when you don't come across any problems – you can be sure that you are travelling in a wrong path."

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