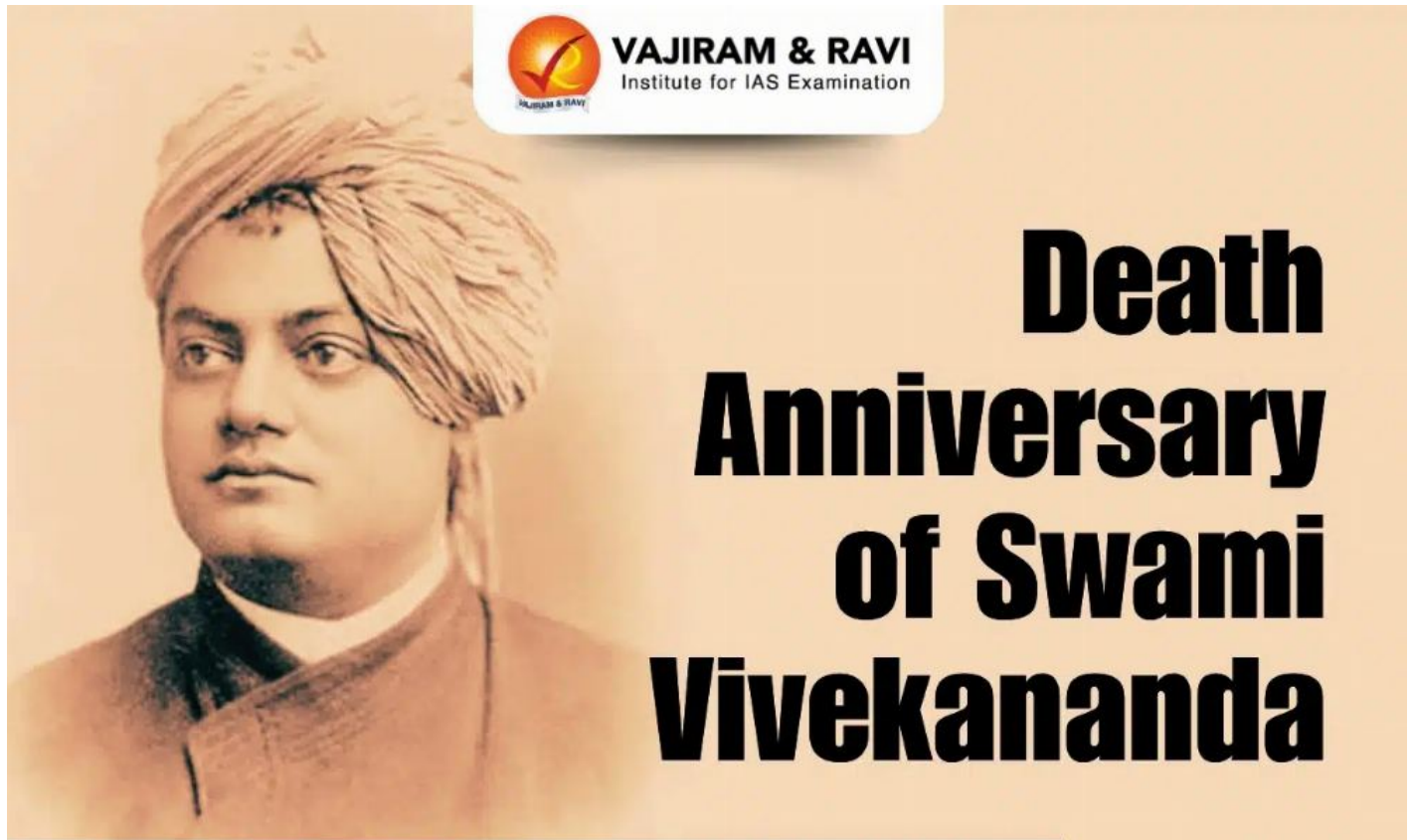


Death Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Contribution, Legacy

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The **Death Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda** is observed every year on **July 4** to remember his **inspiring life and teachings**. He was a great spiritual leader and thinker who played an important role in spreading **Indian philosophy and values** across the world. On this day, people pay tribute to his **wisdom, dedication, and contribution to society**. It is a time to reflect on his ideas about **youth, strength, and humanity**, which continue to guide and inspire people even today.

About Swami Vivekananda

- **Birth and Early Life:** **Swami Vivekananda**, born as **Narendranath Datta** on **January 12, 1863**, in **Kolkata**, belonged to an educated and progressive family. His father, **Vishwanath Datta**, was a lawyer with a modern outlook, while his mother, **Bhuvaneshwari Devi**, was deeply spiritual, shaping his moral and religious values from childhood.
- **Childhood Qualities:** From an early age, he showed **exceptional intelligence, curiosity, and a strong inclination toward spirituality**, often questioning religious beliefs and seeking deeper truths about life and existence.

- **Education and Intellectual Development:** He studied at the **Metropolitan Institution, Kolkata**, where he excelled in **philosophy, logic, and reasoning**. During this time, he was exposed to both **Western philosophy** and **Indian scriptures**, which helped him develop a balanced and analytical worldview.
- **Study of Philosophies:** In his youth, he studied the works of **John Stuart Mill, David Hume, and Immanuel Kant**, while also exploring the **Vedas and Upanishads**, combining **rational thought with spiritual wisdom**.
- **Spiritual Quest:** Despite his academic success, he remained deeply concerned with questions about **God, truth, and the purpose of life**, which led him on a continuous **search for spiritual enlightenment**.
- **Meeting Ramakrishna Paramahansa (1881):** A turning point came when he met **Ramakrishna Paramahansa** in **1881**, who recognized his potential and guided him toward **self-realisation and spiritual awakening**.
- **Influence of Ramakrishna:** Under his teacher's guidance, Vivekananda learned the principle of the **unity of all religions**, understanding that all faiths ultimately lead to the same **divine reality**.
- **Monastic Life (1886):** After the death of **Ramakrishna Paramahansa** in **1886**, he renounced worldly life, took **monastic vows**, and began living as a wandering monk dedicated to **spiritual practice and service**.
- **Travels Across India:** During his travels across India, he observed **poverty, social inequality, and backwardness**, which deeply influenced his thinking and strengthened his resolve to work for **social upliftment and national regeneration**.
- **Chicago Speech (1893):** He achieved worldwide fame after his speech at the **Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago (1893)**, where he presented **Hindu philosophy** as a universal and rational tradition and emphasized **religious tolerance and harmony**.
- **Global Recognition and Influence:** After Chicago, he spent several years in the West spreading **Vedanta and Yoga**, gaining recognition as a **global spiritual ambassador of India**.
- **Revival of Hinduism:** He played a key role in the **revival of Hinduism**, presenting it as a **modern, scientific, and universal religion**, countering misconceptions about Indian culture.
- **Concept of Neo-Vedanta:** He developed the idea of **Neo-Vedanta**, which integrated **ancient spiritual teachings with modern scientific thought**, making them relevant to contemporary society.
- **Foundation of Ramakrishna Mission (1897):** In **1897**, he founded the **Ramakrishna Mission**, an organization dedicated to **spiritual growth and social service**, working in areas like **education, healthcare, and disaster relief**.
- **Educational Philosophy:** He emphasized an **education system** that combines **knowledge with character-building**, aiming to develop **confidence, moral strength, and social responsibility**.
- **Social Reform Efforts:** Vivekananda strongly opposed **caste discrimination** and advocated for **women's empowerment**, stressing that true national progress requires the upliftment of all sections of society.
- **Literary Contributions:** His major works, including **"Jnana Yoga," "Bhakti Yoga," "Karma Yoga,"** and **"Raja Yoga,"** explain different paths to **spiritual growth and self-realisation**.
- **Vedantic Philosophy:** His teachings were based on **Vedanta**, highlighting the **divinity of the soul, unity of existence, and harmony among religions**, encouraging individuals to realize their inner potential.
- **Universal Religion:** He promoted the idea of a **Universal Religion**, emphasizing **religious pluralism**, where all religions are seen as different paths to the same truth.

- **Self-Realisation:** According to him, the ultimate goal of life is **Self-Realisation**, which can be achieved through **meditation, discipline, and spiritual practice**.
- **Service to Humanity:** He stressed the principle of “**Service to Humanity**” through the idea “**Jiva is Shiva,**” meaning serving people is equivalent to serving God.
- **Karma Yoga:** He popularized **Karma Yoga**, teaching that one should perform duties **selflessly without attachment to results**, dedicating actions to a higher purpose.
- **Role in Indian Renaissance:** Vivekananda became a key figure in the **Indian Renaissance**, inspiring **cultural revival, intellectual awakening, and national pride**.
- **Inspiration to Youth:** His famous message, “**Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached,**” motivated youth to contribute actively to **nation-building and social reform**.
- **Interfaith Dialogue:** His teachings promoted **interfaith harmony and dialogue**, encouraging respect and understanding among different religions.
- **Death (1902):** Swami Vivekananda passed away on **July 4, 1902, at Belur Math**, leaving behind a powerful legacy of **spiritual wisdom and social service**.
- **Legacy and Global Influence:** His message of **universal brotherhood, spiritual strength, and service** continues to inspire people across the world.
- **National Youth Day:** In honour of his contributions, **January 12** is celebrated as **National Youth Day in India**, promoting his ideals among the youth.
- **Ramakrishna Mission Legacy:** The **Ramakrishna Mission**, headquartered at **Belur Math**, continues his work through **education, healthcare, and humanitarian services** based on the principles of **Karma Yoga**.

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