

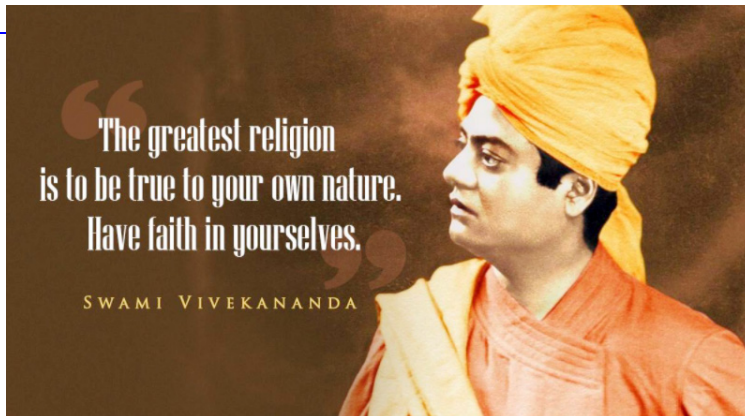


# Swami Vivekananda

## Why in News

Every year, 4<sup>th</sup> July is observed as the death anniversary of [Swami Vivekananda](#), who is regarded as a one of the finest spiritual leaders and intellects India has produced.

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## 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: HT](#)**

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