



## Ramakrishna Mission's Awakening Programme

**For Prelims:** Ramakrishna Mission's 'Awakening' Programme, Central Board of Secondary education (CBSE), Swami Vivekananda.

**For Mains:** Significance of the teachings of Swami Vivekanand.

### Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister for Education launched **Ramakrishna Mission's 'Awakening' Programme** for school students.

### What do we know about the Awakening Programme?

#### ▪ About:

- It is an initiative towards ensuring overall personality development of a child in line with the philosophy of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
- It is for the students of **classes I to V**.

#### ▪ Background:

- Ramakrishna Mission, Delhi branch, from 2014 onwards, has been successfully conducting the **Awakened Citizen Program (ACP)** for **middle school students** to enable them to build "**ATMASHRADDHA**" (Self-esteem) and make responsible choices. It helps them to find solutions for all problems of life.
- There has been a **demand** from educationists for a similar program for Primary school students.
  - In response to this, '**Awakening**' has been designed and piloted across 126 schools.

#### ▪ Need:

- **Social transformation** is one of the key goals of education.
- **Values and wisdom** are **more important than material wealth**.
- Value-based education is important for building a future-ready and socially conscious generation.

### What do we Know about Ramakrishna Mission?

#### ▪ About:

- **Ramakrishna Mission** carries out extensive educational and philanthropic work and expounds a modern version of **Advaita Vedanta**—a school of Indian philosophy.
- The society 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.
- The organizations were brought into existence by **Sri Ramakrishna (1836-1886)**, the great 19th-century saint from Bengal who is regarded as the Prophet of the Modern Age, and Sri Ramakrishna's chief disciple, **Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902)**.

- **Motto:** "**ATMANO MOKSHARTHAM JAGAD HITAYA CHA**" ("For one's own salvation and for the

welfare of the world”).

## What do we know about Swami Vivekanand?

### ▪ 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 19th-century mystic Ramakrishna Paramhansa** and established the **Ramakrishna Mission in 1897.**
- In 1899, he **established Belur Math**, which became his permanent abode.

### ▪ Nationalism

- Though growth of Nationalism is attributed to Western influence but Swami Vivekananda’s nationalism is deeply rooted in Indian spirituality and morality.
- His nationalism is based on Humanism and Universalism, the two cardinal features of Indian spiritual culture.
- Unlike western nationalism which is secular in nature, Swami Vivekananda’s nationalism is based on religion which is life blood of the Indian people.
- The basis of his nationalism are:
  - Deep concern for masses, freedom and equality through which one expresses self, spiritual integration of the world on the basis of universal brotherhood.
  - “Karmyoga” is a system of ethics to attain freedom both political and spiritual through selfless service.
- His writings and speeches established motherland as the only deity to be worshipped in the mind and heart of countrymen.

### ▪ Death:

- He **died at Belur Math in 1902.** Belur Math, **located in West Bengal**, is the headquarters of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission

**Source: PIB**