



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Swami Vivekananda

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Why is in news? PM recalls Swami Vivekananda's Chicago speech delivered on this day 130 years ago

Swami Vivekananda (12 January 1863 – 4 July 1902), born **Narendranath Datta** was an Indian Hindu monk, philosopher and author.

He was **achief disciple** of the 19th-century Indian mystic **Ramakrishna**. Vivekananda founded the **Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission**.

Influenced by Western esotericism, he was a key figure in the **introduction of the Indian darsanas (teachings, practices) of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world**.

Swami Vivekananda is best known in the United States for his ground breaking **speech to the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions** in which he **introduced Hinduism to America and called for religious tolerance and an end to fanaticism**.

Swami Vivekananda **died at an early age of 39 years** on July 4, 1902, due to rupture in the blood vessel of his brain.

Swami Vivekananda **combined thinking of different religions, communities and traditions**. His thoughts inspire liberation from inertia. Swami Vivekananda is the inspiration behind **National Youth Day**.

Vivekananda linked **morality with control of the mind, seeing truth, purity and unselfishness** as traits which strengthened it. He advised his followers to be holy, unselfish and to have faith.

On September 11 in 1893, the saint delivered a powerful speech at the first Parliament of the World's Religions - in which he spoke about tolerance, religious acceptance and the need to abolish all forms of fanaticism - issues that find relevance even today.

Through his speech, Swami Vivekananda introduced Hinduism to the western world - the religion which he said has taught the world both, tolerance and universal acceptance.

Discarding the idea of religious supremacy, he propagated a message of universal brotherhood.

The iconic speech earned Swami Vivekananda a standing ovation for two minutes, and went on to establish him as the greatest figure in the Parliament of World Religions, and India as the mother of religions.

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