

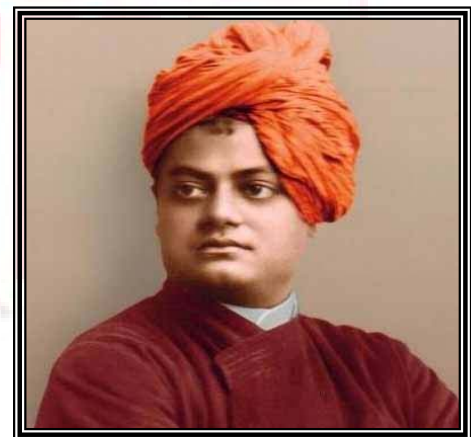
Youth Day in India is celebrated on 12 January on the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. In 1984, the Government of India declared and decided to observe the Birthday of Swami Vivekananda (12



January, according to the English calendar) as National Youth Day every year from 1985 onwards. To quote from the Government of India's Communication, 'It was felt that the philosophy of Swamiji and the ideals for which he lived and worked could be a great source of inspiration for the Indian

Youth.' In this context, National Youth Day is celebrated on the birthday of Swami Vivekananda.

Having innumerable linguistic, ethnic, historical and regional diversities, India has had from time immemorial a strong sense of cultural unity. It was only because of Swami Vivekananda who revealed the true foundations of Indian culture. It helped in defining and strengthening the sense of unity in India as a nation. *Swamiji* (Swami Vivekananda) gave Indians proper understanding of their country's great spiritual heritage for which we Indians feel proud of our Country. *Swamiji's* most unique contribution to the creation of new India was to open the minds of Indians to their duty to the oppressed masses. *Swamiji's* contribution to



Hinduism is immense. It was Swami Vivekananda who gave Hinduism a whole clear-cut identity, a distinct profile.

Memoirs of Swami Vivekananda

Swami Vivekananda was born in Shimla Pally, Calcutta on Monday, 12 January 1863, during the eve of *Makara Sankranti* festival. His childhood name was *Narendranath Datta*. He was also called as *Naren*. His father Vishwanath Datta



was an Attorney of Calcutta High Court and his mother, Bhubaneswari Devi was a pious lady. *Narendranath's* thinking and personality were influenced by his parents—the father by his rational mind and the mother by her religious temperament. During his childhood, he had a great fascination for wandering ascetics and monks. *Narendranath* had tremendous interest and he had a wide range of

scholarship in philosophy, history, the social sciences, arts, literature, and other subjects. He evinced much interest in scriptural texts, *Vedas*, the *Upanishads*, *Bhagavad Gita*, *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and the *Puranas*. He was also fabulous in classical music. Narendranath started his education at home, later he joined the Metropolitan Institution of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar in 1871 and in 1879 he passed the entrance examination for Presidency College, Calcutta.

Throughout his life he has visited many places of India and abroad. His journey to America took him through China, Japan, Canada and he arrived at Chicago in July 1893. On 11th September 1893 at Parliament



of Religions and represented India and *Hinduism* through his first brief address. Then he returned to India. On 1 May 1897 at Calcutta, he set up the

"Ramakrishna Math"—the organ for promulgating religion and *"Ramakrishna Mission"*—the organ for social service. The last few days of his life he spent at *Advaita Ashrama, Mayavati* and later at the *Belur Math*. Henceforth till the end he stayed at *Belur Math*.

Celebration of National Youth Day in India

Every Year National Youth Day in the name of Swami Vivekananda Birth



Anniversary is observed in various centres of *Ramakrishna Math* and *Mission* all over India in a traditional Hindu manner. This includes *mangalarati*, special worship, *homa* (fire-ritual), meditation, devotional songs, religious discourses, *sandhyarati* (worship service in the evenings), and so on.

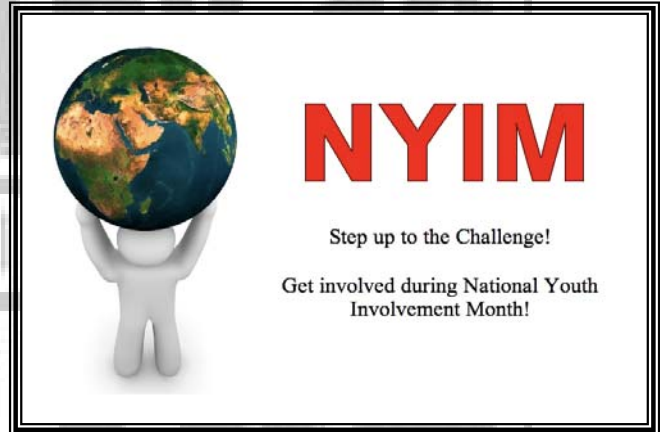
The National Youth Day is observed all over India at large numbers of schools and colleges—with processions, speeches, recitations, music, youth conventions, seminars, *Yogasana* presentation, competitions in essay-writing, recitations, sports, and other programmes on 12 January every year.

National Youth Day-2010 in Orissa

This year, Orissa will be hosting the 15th National Youth Festival in Bhubaneswar from 8th January to 12th January. The closing ceremony will be on 12th January, 2010 i.e. on National Youth Day which is also the birth day of Swami Vivekananda, the great philosopher and thinker. The Week beginning from National Youth Day is also called as the National Youth Week. This year as part of the celebration, Government of India is holding the National Youth Festival. This is an annual event of the



Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and is being celebrated in one of the States in a joint venture. This is the 15th year of celebration and Orissa State is so fortunate to celebrate the event this year. This will be celebrated in collaboration with Government of India under the Umbrella Scheme of the National Integration Camp with other partners like *Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan* (NYKS) and the National Service Scheme (NSS). The whole idea is to organize gathering of youth across the Country to take up different activities, so that the concept of National Integration, spirit of communal harmony, brotherhood, courage and adventure which are parts of Swami Vivekananda's teaching will be propagated.



The activities of this event includes, cultural event both competitive and non-competitive, Martial Arts, exhibition, intellectual discourses, Young Artists Camps, Seminars, Adventure programmes, presentation of National Youth Awards and some other innovative items.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

In a day, when you don't
come across any problems
- you can be sure that
you are traveling in a
wrong path

The motto of declaring youth day on the birth date of this philosophical guru Swami Vivekananda was motivating and inculcating his pious ideals to the coming generations. Swami Vivekananda's lectures and writings are very much based on Indian spiritual tradition and the broad outlook of his Master Sri

Ramakrishna. These are the sources of inspiration and have motivated numerous youth organizations, study circles, and service projects involving youth to implement those principles in their lives.

Teachings of Swami Vivekananda

- My ideal, indeed, can be put into a few words, and that is: to preach unto mankind their divinity and how to make it manifest in every movement of life.
- Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man.
- We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet.
- So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who, having been educated at their expense pays not the least heed to them.
- Whatever you think, that you will be. If you think yourselves weak, weak you will be; if you think yourselves strong, strong you will be.
- If you have faith in all the three hundred and thirty millions of your mythological gods ...and still have no faith in yourselves, there is no salvation for you. Have faith in yourselves, and stand up on that faith and be strong; that is what we need.
- Strength, strength it is that we want so much in this life, for what we call sin and sorrow have all one cause, and that is our weakness. With weakness comes ignorance, and with ignorance comes misery.
- The older I grow, the more everything seems to me to lie in manliness. This is my new Gospel.



- Purity, patience, and perseverance are the three essentials to success, and above all, love.

- Religion is realization; not talk, not doctrine, nor theories, however beautiful they may be. It is being and becoming, not hearing or acknowledging; it is the whole soul becoming changed into what it believes.



- Religion is the manifestation of the Divinity already in man.
- Teach yourselves, teach everyone his real nature, call upon the sleeping soul and see how it awakes. Power will come, glory will come, goodness will come, purity will come, and everything that is excellent will come when this sleeping soul is roused to self-conscious activity.
- They alone live who live for others, the rest are more dead than alive.
- This is the gist of all worship – to be pure and to do good to others.
- It is love and love alone that I preach, and I base my teaching on the great Vedantic truth of the sameness and omnipresence of the Soul of the Universe.

“Nothing Is Impossible: Never think there is anything impossible for the soul. It is the greatest heresy to think so. If there is sin, this is the only sin - to say that you are weak, or others are weak.”

- Swami Vivekananda