



*Beware of everything that is untrue. Stick to truth and we shall succeed.
Fifty centuries are looking on you; the future of India depends on you. Work on....*

Swami Vivekananda

Government of India is celebrating *Jan 12th as "National Youth Day" from 1984*. Because, on this day in the year of *1863*, was born the great philosopher, an inspiration to the youth, the embodiment of Indian culture and intelligence "*Sri Swami Vivekananda, the great spiritual guru*" of India. He stands as a role model for generations in various respects. Swami Vivekananda inspired many young people including great leaders like Netaji Subash Chandra Bose through his works. His works and knowledge is an ideal inspiration for the youth to achieve greater things in life.



Why National Youth Day is essential

Normally we can say that the age group in between 16 to 35 is called as the youth stage of life. This is known as the most productive stage of life. Indian youth has a special quality for popularize our culture and traditional values not only in India but through out the world. With popular culture becoming more youthful and more accessible through TV, technology and global consumer brands, today's youth think that the traditional demographic terms are not able to spread longer benefit to them. So to teach and aware them about the essentialities of moral, cultural, and spiritual values in a human life, national youth day is observed every year on the eve of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti on 12th January every year through out India.

The Historical Speech of Swami Vivekananda

In recent history there have been great strides in bridging the spirituality of East and West. Notable among these was the message given by Swami Vivekananda at the *World Parliament of Religions in 1893 at Chicago*, which was attended by over 27 million people. Swami Vivekananda was the first teacher of religion or swami from east to visit America. After the welcome address of the opening of the World Parliament of religions, Swami Vivekananda spoke, and started with these few words: "*Sisters and Brothers of America.*" The 7,000 people in the audience, immediately

feeling the depth of his sincerity and the supremacy on Indian spiritualism, and sense of brotherhood ness, rose to their feet and according to reports, “went into inexplicable rapture with standing ovation and clapping that lasted for more than three minutes.”

According to Swamiji- *“I’m proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration but we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth. I am proud to tell you that we have gathered in our bosom the purest remnant of the Israelites who came to Southern India and took refuge with us in very year in which their holy temple was shattered to pieces by Roman tyranny. I am proud to belong to the religion which has sheltered and is still fostering the remnant of the grand Zoroastrian nation.”*

Objective of National Youth Day

The main *objective* of *National Youth day* is required for us to spread knowledge and the literature of Swami Vivekananda to the society, to build good characters and true citizens of the Nation. A responsible Youth must be taking the responsibility for the development of Individuals, villages and cities. Let us all put our efforts together to make a better society, inspired from the ideals of Swami Vivekananda is into --

- Inspiring youth to channelize their powers towards the development of the Nation
- Working for fulfillment of basic needs of people
- Creating awareness among the people in various aspects of Health, Education, Technology, and develop the quality of Spiritualism among the Youth

Observation of National Youth Day

The National Youth Day is observed all over India at schools and colleges, with processions, speeches, recitations, music, youth conventions, seminars, Yogasanas, presentations, competitions in essay-writing, recitations and sports on 12 January every year.