

UPSC Civil Services Examination

UPSC Notes [GS-I]

Topic: NCERT Notes: Swami Vivekananda [Modern Indian History for UPSC]

NCERT notes on important topics for the UPSC [Civil Services Exam](#). These notes will also be useful for other competitive exams like banking PO, SSC, state civil services exams and so on. This article talks about Swami Vivekananda.

Swami Vivekananda (1863 – 1902)

Background

- Born as Narendranath Dutta in Calcutta in January 1863.
- Was influenced by Ramakrishna Paramahansa who became his Guru.
- Became a monk and travelled all over India and the West.
- His writings and speeches did a lot to spread Hindu philosophy in the West especially Advaita Vedanta and Yoga philosophies.
- In 1886, he formally accepted monastic vows.
- He established many Mathas in India the most important being the Belur Math in Belur, Howrah district.
- He founded the Ramakrishna Mission in May 1897.
- He died in 1902 in Belur Math in West Bengal.

Contributions

- Swami Vivekananda is credited with introducing the West to the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga.
- He worked in the field of social service.
- He spoke to people in India and urged them to eliminate the caste system and promote science and industrialisation.
- He also inspired many people to join the national independence movement.
- He urged the youth of the country to fight colonial oppression, do social service and work for the people in unity.
- His teachings opened up interfaith debates and interfaith awareness.
- He also worked against superstitions and advocated the upliftment of women's position in society.
- He wanted the people to embrace the spirit of equality and free thinking.
- His interpretation of Vedanta is called neo-Vedanta.

- He worked towards a better understanding of Hinduism and also towards nationalism.
- According to him, the best form of worship was the service of the people.
- He laid stress on physical and moral strength. One of his many quotes say, “You Will Be Nearer To Heaven through Football than through the Study of the Gita.”
- The four pillars of nationalism according to Swami Vivekananda are:
 - i. Consciousness and pride in the ancient glory of India.
 - ii. Development of moral and physical strength.
 - iii. Awakening of the masses.
 - iv. Unity based on common spiritual ideas.

Swami Vivekananda's birthday, January 12th is celebrated as National Youth Day in India.

