

National Youth Day

(January 12)

(Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)

January 28, 2022

“This day is a day of great inspiration for every Indian youth; it is a day for taking new resolutions. On this day, India had received such a zealous entity in the form of Vivekananda that is still energizing our country, constantly inspiring us and showing us the way forward.”

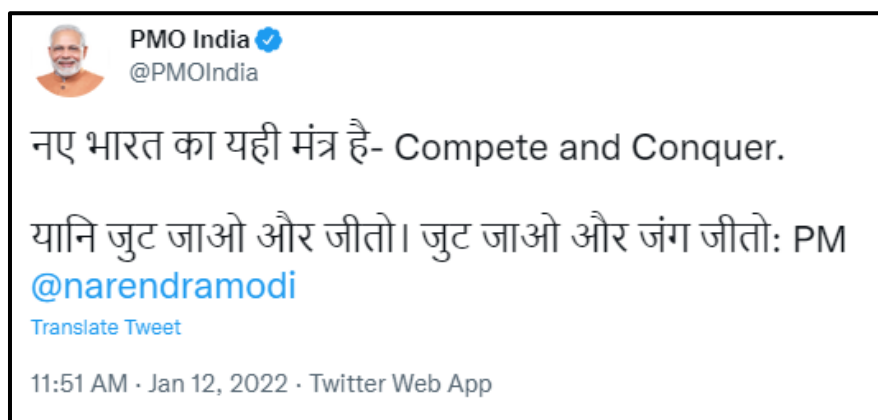
- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)¹

Background: India’s Youth - its most valuable asset

The youth are indeed the most dynamic and vibrant segment of the population in any country. India is one of the [youngest nations in the world](#), with about [65 per cent population under 35](#) years of age. The population of [India has an average age of 29 years](#) as against [38 years for the US](#), [42 years for China](#) and [48 years for Japan](#).

India is [home to a fifth](#) of the world’s youth demographic. As this vast resource of young citizens enters the workforce, it could create a ‘demographic dividend’. A demographic dividend is defined by the United Nations Population Fund as economic growth resulting from a shift in a population’s age structure, mainly when the working-age population is larger than the number of dependents.

The surge in the youth population presents multiple, unique and interesting possibilities for India’s future, in terms of economic growth, social mobility, and even a more inclusive and diverse cultural fabric.



¹ https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-speech-on-national-youth-day/

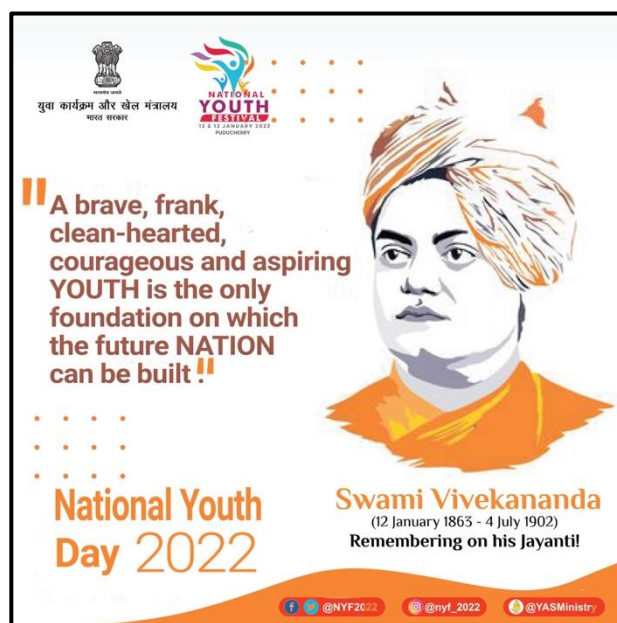
National Youth Day: January 12

Swami Vivekananda, [the great philosopher, thinker](#) and the greatest patron of the youth in India, was born on January 12, 1863 in the Pausa Krishna Saptami Tithi in Kolkata (then Calcutta). Every year since 1985, the Government of India observes January 12, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, as the National Youth Day and the week commencing from that day, as the National Youth Week. To quote from a Government 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.”

[Under the component ‘Promotion of National Integration’](#) of National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD), a National Youth Festival is organised during the month of January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (12 January), which is celebrated as National Youth Day. The Festival is organised in partnership with one of the States/UTs. The expenditure is shared between the Centre and the host State. The Programmes organised as part of the Festival include various cultural programmes (both competitive and non-competitive), youth convention, *svichar*, exhibitions, adventure programmes, etc. The [Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has been celebrating National Youth Festival](#)² from January 12-16 since 1995.

Swami Vivekananda: Relevance as Youth Icon of India³

Swami Vivekananda once said, “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.” He also said, “See for the highest, aim at that highest, and you shall reach the highest.” His message captures the great importance of his ideas and ideals among the youth in our country today. He personified the eternal energy of the youth and their restless quest for truth. It is entirely fitting that 12 January, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, is observed as National Youth Day to rekindle the eternal message of this great patriot.



² <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/Link%20document.pdf>

³ [Relevance of Swami Vivekananda as Youth Icon of India \(pib.gov.in\)](#)

Among the various ways in which Swami Vivekananda suggested to rebuild the Indian society, Education was the primary means for empowering the people. He once said, “The education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle for life, which does not bring out strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy, and the courage of a



lion – is it worth the name? Real education is that which enables one to stand on one’s own legs.” For him, education meant secular learning that built character and instilled human values in students.

The Government of India, while commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, sanctioned a “Value Education Project” of the

Ramakrishna Mission (an organisation established by Swami Vivekananda which is widely recognized for its commendable work in the areas of value based education, culture, health, women’s empowerment, youth and tribal welfare and relief and rehabilitation), to help inculcate in children a moral compass and a value system against the tide of commercialism and consumerism that is sweeping our societies.

It also gave an endowment of [US\\$ 1.5 million to the University of Chicago](#), for establishing the Swami Vivekananda Chair to focus on Vivekananda, through lectures, seminars and suitable related academic activities on Indian Culture and Indian Studies. The University of Chicago will also facilitate exchange of research scholars between the University of Chicago and the Government of India. This permanent endowment will help spread the message of harmony of religions, understanding between nations and the spiritual oneness of humanity, which Swami Vivekananda worked for.

The Government has embarked on the mission of building a united, strong and modern India to fulfil the vision of the great thinkers like Vivekananda. “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat”, follows the principle of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.” These slogans reflect the commitment to the people, particularly to the youth, to take the nation to new heights. A number of path-breaking initiatives have been introduced recently. ‘[Make in India](#)’ campaign has been launched to develop India as a global manufacturing hub. ‘[Digital India](#)’ initiative seeks to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. ‘[Skill India](#)’ is being launched to impart necessary skills to prepare Indians for the opportunities in Indian Economy as also the opportunities abroad. A number of initiatives, including [Smart Cities Project](#), have been launched for developing infrastructure. ‘[Swachh Bharat Mission](#)’ and ‘[Clean Ganga](#)’ Mission have been launched for building a clean and green India. The flagship initiative ‘[Startup India](#)’ has found great favour among the youth for nurturing innovation and Startups in the country through innovation and design and generating large scale employment opportunities.

All these initiatives of the Government require active involvement and support of youth as they are the major stakeholders of future of this country. [Skill development and Entrepreneurship](#) is the flagship programme to put India on the road to become developed nation. Government is making all efforts to invest hugely in youth of the country because it is necessary in the ambitious task of building a modern and prosperous India. As Swami Vivekananda once exhorted, “Arise! Awake! And stop not till the goal is reached”, the youth of India must unite

and work for the country with purity, patience, and perseverance as the Swami felt long ago that these three are essentials to success.

Celebrating India's Youth

1. [The National Youth Awards](#)

[National Youth Awards](#) are conferred every year on young individuals and NGOs for excellent work done for nation-building / community service. A cash award of Rs.40,000, a medal and a certificate of honour is given to each individual awardee. The award to voluntary youth organisations comprises a certificate, a medal and an amount of Rs.2,00,000.

To see objectives, description and conditions of eligibility for the National Youth Awards, [click here](#).

2. [National Youth Parliament Festival](#)

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched the National Youth Parliament Festival on January 11, 2019. The idea was to take the Youth Festival to each district of the country and celebrate it as the "National Youth Parliament Festival." The objective of National Youth Parliament Festival is to hear the voice of youth between 18 and less than 25 years of age, who will join various careers in coming years, including public services. National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) is based on the idea given [by Prime Minister in his Mann Ki Baat Address on December 31, 2017](#).

- **1st National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF), 2019**

The first NYPF 2019 was organized from January 12 to February 27, 2019 at District, State & National level with the theme "Be the Voice of New India and Find solutions and Contribute to Policy." A total of 88,000 youth participated in the program. 56 State Awardees and 728 finalists from 28 States participated in National Youth Parliament on February 26, 2019 at New Delhi. On 27th February, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded the top three winners of the first National Youth Parliament Festival, who also got an opportunity to share their thoughts in presence of the Prime Minister.

- **2nd National Youth Parliament Festival 2021**

District Youth Parliaments were organized through virtual mode at **150 District Venues** in which **698 Districts** (both NYK Districts and Non-District NYKs) from 36 States and UTs in which a total of **2,34,428** youth participated.

State Youth Parliaments were organized through virtual mode with the total participation of **1345 youth**. 84 State level Winners from each State took part in the National Youth Parliament at Delhi on 11 & 12 January, 2021.

The three best speakers at the national level were awarded Rs 2 lakhs, Rs 1.50 lakhs and Rs 1 lakh respectively along with a certificate of merit. Every participant was given a certificate of participation. The prizes and certificate of merit were given away by **Shri Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha**.

Prime Minister had addressed the attendees of the National Youth Parliament Festival 2021, on 12 January, 2021. He had lauded the winners and final panellists of the second National Youth Parliament Festival.

3. National Youth Festival

The National Youth Festival in India is an annual gathering of youth with various activities including competitive ones. Celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of youth icon Swami Vivekananda, it is organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India in collaboration with one of the State Governments. Thus it is held in collaboration with a different state/UT during National Youth Week, 12 to 16 January, every year.

The objective is to bring youth of the country together to showcase their talents; provide them an arena by creating a mini-India, where youth interact in formal and informal settings and exchange their social and cultural uniqueness. It is also to promote National Integration, spirit of communal harmony, brotherhood, courage and adventure. The basic aim is to propagate the spirit, essence and concept of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat with the partnership of youth and the masses of India.



Like the National Youth Festival, States are also encouraged to hold state level, district level and block level youth festivals in the same format as that of the National Youth Festival. The centre of the festival focuses on cultural aspects and a number of other programmes covering a wide variety of

activities, which not only reflect the spirit of friendship but also peace and development. The festival also provides a nationwide exposure to the youth for the expression and fulfilment of their cultural talents and aspirations. It is a platform where the youth come together and exchange their diversity and experience the oneness which binds us together.

- **1st National Youth Festival**

The first National Youth Festival was [held in 1995 in Bhopal](#) as a major activity under the programme of National Integration Camp (NIC).

National Youth Festival: Last Year

- **24th National Youth Festival 2021: Hybrid Mode**

Due to the COVID – 19 pandemic, it was not possible to organize a physical National Youth Festival in 2021. However, after several rounds of discussions with different State Governments and Union Territories, it was decided to host the [24th National Youth Festival 2021 in a virtual mode](#). Therefore, the 24th National Youth Festival was celebrated primarily in a hybrid mode i.e. both online and offline modes such that a few activities were held in the physical mode viz. Surya Namaskar, Climbing, Trekking, Sky Diving from December 20, 2020 to January 16, 2021. YUVAAH – Utsah Naye Bharat Ka” was the theme of last year’s festival, which signified the youth bringing alive the celebration of New India.

The opening ceremony of the 24th National Youth Festival and the closing ceremony of the second National Youth Parliament Festival took place on January 12, 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament. Closing ceremony of 24th National Youth Festival took place in Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath Road, New Delhi on January 16, 2021.

A total of [about 6 Lakh youth registered themselves](#) on the website and became part of the festival. The competitive events were showcased on virtual platforms. The Judges used the virtual platform to select 72 winners in 18 solo events and six group events. Another 2.34 lakh youth participated in the National Youth Parliament which was held as a part of the National Youth Festival.



25th National Youth Festival 2022

The festival aims to shape the minds of India's youth and transform them into a united force for nation building. It is one of the biggest exercises in social cohesion and intellectual & cultural integration. It aims to bring diverse cultures of India and integrate them into a united thread of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. This year, in view of the emerging Covid situation, the Festival was held virtually from 12 - 13 January, 2022.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi [inaugurated the 25th National Youth Festival in Puducherry, via video conferencing.](#)



[Commenting on the young profile of the ancient country](#), the Prime Minister said that today, the world looks at India with hope and faith. This is because India's demography is young, and the mind of India is also young. There is youth in India's potential, and in its dreams. India is young in its thoughts as well as in its consciousness. India's thinking and philosophy have always accepted change and there is modernity in its antiquity, he said.

Key Highlights from the 25th National Youth Day

- The tag-line of the festival was [Saksham Yuva Sashakth Yuva](#) meaning Capable Youth - Forceful Youth, Able Youth- Strong Youth.
- During the event, [the Prime Minister unveiled selected essays](#) on "Mere Sapno ka Bharat" and "Unsung Heroes of Indian Freedom Movement". These essays have been selected from submissions by over 1 lakh youth on the two themes.



- The Prime Minister also inaugurated a Technology Centre of the [Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises](#), established at Puducherry with an investment of about Rs. 122 crores. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam - an auditorium with an open-air theatre, constructed by the Government of Puducherry at a cost of about Rs 23 crores.

- The [inauguration was followed by the National Youth Summit](#) wherein there were panel discussions on four identified themes. In line with the youth-led development and motivating youngsters to solve the emerging issues and challenges, the themes included environment, climate and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)- led growth; tech, entrepreneurship and innovation; indigenous and ancient wisdom; and national character, nation building and home grown. Recorded video capsules of Puducherry, Auroville, Immersive City Experience, indigenous sport games & folk dances etc. were shown to the participants during the festival. There were also open discussions with Olympians & Paralympians followed by live Performance in the evening. Virtual Yoga session were organised in the morning. There was also a virtual live musical concert to regale the participants.
- Union Minister [Shri Anurag Thakur and Lt. Governor of Puducherry Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan had unveiled](#) the [Logo](#) and Mascot of National Youth Festival 2022 in Puducherry on January 5, 2022.



[Source](#)

Video References

- <https://youtu.be/g4ENFMoT-Ck>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAAXQpy77Vk>
- <https://youtu.be/vlVPk2jL7Ag>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AO68Ss5ydJc>
- <https://youtu.be/hXHOOpKUlBv8>
- <https://youtu.be/j-1NIGp0D64>
- <https://youtu.be/zgIL7T9-iPQ>
- <https://youtu.be/oC9Kwkqm2J8>
- https://youtu.be/v3vNqb8q_Io
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Twitter Links

- <https://twitter.com/PMOIndia/status/686860605978886144?s=20>

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References

- PIB Press Release on [PM inaugurates 25th National Youth Festival in Puducherry](#) dated January 12, 2022
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- <https://nss.gov.in/youth-affairs/national-youth-festival>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1785749>
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- PIB Press Release on [PM to address valedictory function of 2nd National Youth Parliament Festival on 12 January](#) Dated 10 January 2021
- <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Puducherry-govt-and-Union-Ministry-of-Youth-Affairs-to-hold-25th-National-Youth-Festival-from-12th-to-16th-January%26%2339%3B-2022&id=432055>
- <https://www.narendramodi.in/pm-addresses-two-video-conferences-on-the-occasion-of-national-youth-day-538489>

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