

1. National Youth Day (Rashtriya Yuva Divas) – Polity

“The power of youth is the common wealth for the entire world.” – Swami Vivekananda

National Youth Day is observed on January 12th to commemorate Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary, celebrating his ideals of spiritual and social upliftment. The occasion also highlights the government's strategic focus on empowering India's youth—who constitute a significant demographic dividend—through comprehensive frameworks like *Mera Yuva Bharat*, *PM-SETU*, and the *Agnipath* scheme to achieve *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

1. Observance and Significance

Date of Celebration– Observed annually on 12th January.

Inception– The day was first observed in 1985.

Commemoration– It marks the birth anniversary of the great spiritual leader, philosopher, and thinker, Swami Vivekananda.

Core Objective– To inspire the youth to nurture their dreams, unleash their energies, and shape a future aligned with Vivekananda's ideals. It aims to promote character building, education, and community service.

Nodal Ministry– The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) leads the celebration.

Strategic Approach– The observance fosters inter-ministerial collaboration to position youth as active partners in nation-building rather than passive beneficiaries.

2. Demographic Context

Definition of Youth– The government defines youth as those within the age group of 15–29 years.

Population Statistics– This age group makes up nearly 40% of India's total population. Over 65% of India's population is under the age of 35.

Viksit Bharat 2047– This demographic dividend is considered the backbone of the country's journey toward becoming a developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.

Life and Legacy of Swami Vivekananda

1. Biography

Birth– Born as Narendra Nath Datta on 12th January 1863 in Calcutta (now Kolkata) into a Bengali Kayastha family.

Spiritual Lineage– He was a devoted disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

Name Adoption– He adopted the name 'Vivekananda' in 1893 at the request of Maharaja Ajit Singh of Khetri.

Death– He passed away on 4th July 1902 at the age of 39 at Belur Math, West Bengal.

Recognition– Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose referred to him as the "Maker of Modern India."

2. Vision of Religion and Spirituality

Synthesis of Thought– He successfully combined the spiritual insights of Sri Ramakrishna with the philosophy of Advaita Vedanta.

Religion as Science– He viewed religion not as dogma but as a science of consciousness—a universal, experiential realization of truth.

Universal Religion– He advocated for a religion free from superstition, intolerance, and priestcraft, emphasizing acceptance of all paths.

Path to Self-Realization

- Goal**– Attainment of supreme freedom, knowledge, and happiness.
- Methods**– Emphasized Raja Yoga, Jnana Yoga, and Karma Yoga (selfless work), along with devotion and mental discipline to realize the soul's divinity.

3. Ethical and Social Philosophy

Ethical Theory– Proposed ethics based on the intrinsic purity and unity of the *Atman* (Soul).

Moral Principle– Morality stems from the realization that all beings are one in *Brahman*.

Service Ethos– Central to his vision were love, compassion, and "Daridra Narayana" (service to the poor/humanity) as service to God.

Education- He stressed a dual approach

- a. **Secular Education-** For economic upliftment.
- b. **Spiritual Education-** For building moral strength.

Antyodaya- Asserted that true development occurs only when the last and poorest person in society is uplifted.

4. Major Contributions and Institutions

Chicago Address (1893)- Gained global recognition for his speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions, where he advocated for universal tolerance, brotherhood, and the acceptance of all religions.

Institution Building

Ramakrishna Mission (1897)- Founded to promote the integration of spirituality with material progress and social service.

Belur Math (1899)- Established as the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission.

Vedanta Society of New York (1894)- Established to spread Indian philosophy and the principles of 'neo-Vedanta' in the West.

Government Framework for Youth Empowerment

The government has established a comprehensive framework covering civic engagement, skills, health, and entrepreneurship.

1. Platforms for Engagement and Service

Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)- An autonomous, technology-driven platform aiming to empower youth by connecting them with opportunities for volunteering, leadership, and experiential learning.

National Service Scheme (NSS)- A scheme aiming to instill social consciousness and personality development in student youth through community service.

2. Skilling and Vocational Training Initiatives

Skill India Mission (SIM)- Launched in 2015 on World Youth Skills Day to skill, re-skill, and up-skill individuals through a vast network of centers.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)- Launched in 2015 to provide short-term training, upskilling, and recognition of prior learning (RPL).

PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs)

- a. **Launch-** October 2025.
- b. **Goal-** A flagship centrally sponsored scheme to modernize Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and align them with global industry standards.

Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)- Originally launched as Shramik Vidyapeeth in 1967, it focuses on providing non-formal skill training.

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)- Launched in August 2016 to promote apprenticeship by offering financial support for stipends.

3. Employment and Entrepreneurship

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

- a. **Launch-** Announced in 2025 with an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore.
- b. **Incentives-** Offers up to ₹15,000 (in two installments) to newly employed youth and supports employers with up to ₹3,000 per month for each new employee to encourage job creation.

Agnipath Scheme (2022)- Recruits youth (male and female) aged 17.5–21 years into the 'below officer's rank' cadre of the three-armed services. Recruits serve for a period of four years as Agniveers.

Startup India- Launched in 2016 to foster a robust ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)- Aimed at "Funding the Unfunded," specifically micro-enterprises and small businesses.

4. Rural-Specific Initiatives

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)- Part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) launched in 2014.

Objective- To diversify incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.

Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs)- Launched in January 2009.

Provision- Offers free, residential training to rural youth with post-training support and credit linkage for entrepreneurship.

5. Health Initiatives

Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)- Launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to address the holistic health needs of adolescents aged 10–19 years.

Differentiation of Key Youth Schemes

The following table differentiates specific government schemes based on their primary objective and target audience.

Scheme Name	Primary Objective	Target Audience / Focus
Agnipath Scheme	Recruitment for military service for a 4-year tenure.	Youth aged 17.5–21 years (Aspirants for Armed Forces).
PM-SETU	Modernization of vocational training infrastructure (ITIs).	Students of Industrial Training Institutes (Global Standards).
PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana	Financial incentives for job creation and new employment.	Newly employed youth and Employers.
Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)	Digital platform for volunteering and experiential learning.	Youth seeking civic engagement and leadership.
DDU-GKY	Skill training for rural livelihood diversification.	Rural youth from poor families.
PMMY (MUDRA)	Providing loans/funding to small businesses.	Micro-enterprises and small business owners ("The Unfunded").

Conclusion

National Youth Day 2026 serves as a reminder of the vital role youth play in shaping India's future. By integrating the spiritual and ethical legacy of Swami Vivekananda with modern government frameworks for education, health, and employment, the nation aims to transform its demographic dividend into the architects of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Source- [https-](https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=156899&NotelId=156899&ModuleId=3®=3&lang=2#~~-text=National%20Youth%20Day%2C%20observed%20every,inspire%20generations%20of%20young%20Indians)

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