

Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | History

Why in news?

Pime Minister of India to Participate in International Aryan Summit 2025 in New Delhi on 31st October.

- **Dayanand Saraswati** He was a prominent social reformer, philosopher, religious leader and founder of the Arya Samaj.
- Born on 12th February 1824 in Tankara, Gujarat.
- He was earlier named Mool Shankar Tiwari.
- Father Karsan Ji Tiwari
- Mother Amritbai.
- He received education from *Guru Virjanand* in Mathura.
- Philosophy & teachings -
 - He believed in the *infallible* authority of the Vedas.
 - He advocated the **doctrine of Karma & Reincarnation**.
 - Emphasized "Go Back to Vedas" True Hinduism is rooted in the Vedas, which uphold rationality, equality, and social justice.
 - Literary Work Satyarth Prakash (The Light of Truth), Sanskarvidhi, Yajurved Bhashyam, Veda Bhashya Bhumika, etc, journal "Arya Patrika'.

Social reforms -

- Opposed Untouchability, idol worship, religious superstitions, polygamy, child marriage, etc.
- Advocated for women's education, widow remarriage, upliftment of depressed classes, Shuddhi movement for reconversion and the abolition of Sati and child marriage.

Educational contributions

- He advocated for modern, scientific, Vedic education and opposed the British colonial education system.
- He established the **Vedic schools** for the education of girls and boys of all castes.

 Establishment of Gurukuls, Girl's Gurukulas, DAV (Dayanand Anglo Vedic) schools & colleges in 1886 to realize the vision of Swami Dayanand Saraswati.

• Role in national movement -

- He was the 1st to give the call for **"India for Indians"** (swaraj) in 1876, a call later taken up by Lokmanya Tilak.
- \circ India's 2^{nd} President Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan called him as "a maker of modern India".

Arya Samaj is a Hindu monotheistic socio-religious movement, established by Swami Dayananda Saraswati in 1875 in Bombay.

Quick Fact

International Aryan Summit

- It is also known as the International Arya Mahasammelan.
- The summit is being held to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati and the 150th anniversary of the Arya Samaj.
- Dates October 30 to November 2, 2025.
- Location Swarn Jayanti Park, Sector 10, Rohini, New Delhi.
- Organized by Arya Samaj.

References

- 1. PIB | PM to participate in International Aryan Summit 2025.
- 2. The Arya Samaj | Dayanand Saraswati
- 3. SDEF | Dayanand Saraswati

