

Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | History

Why in news?

Prime 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.
 - India's 2nd 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](#)