



Ministry of Education

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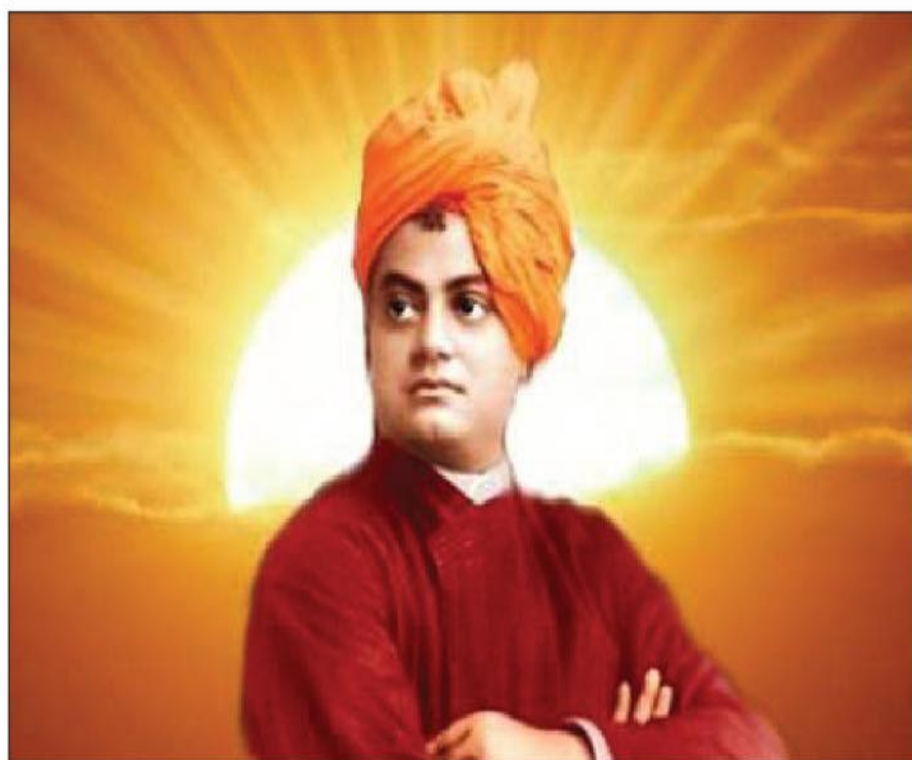
# The Impressive Times

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## EDUCATION MAKETH MEN AND NATION



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Union Education Minister



It is rightly said that life should be great rather than long, for the greatness of life is defined by the deeds of an individual who leave behind an indelible legacy for humanity. The life of Swami Vivekananda exemplifies this notion in toto. The great religious saint and the reformer of India left the world in 1902 while he was just 39 years old. However, his thought-provoking lectures led the west to look towards

India as a confluence of culture and values which made him the true brand ambassador of Indian Knowledge System and Indian Value System. Swami Ji's life is an inspiration not only for me but for the many generations of India. Today, as we pay homage to the great saint, I want to explain to readers about Swami Ji's contribution to education, which remains relevant to contemporary times. Swami

Vivekananda's educational thought holds high significance and relevance today as modern education is becoming bereft of human values. In the era of modernisation and advancements in scientific temperament, Swami ji held the firm belief that education was a potent tool for the growth of individual character and the moral upliftment of the humankind. He believed at the core of education laid the



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**I AM SURE THAT THE POLICY WILL PAVE THE WAY FROM ‘CAPACITY-BUILDING’ OF OUR STUDENTS TO ‘NATION-BUILDING’ AND PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE MAKING OF ‘NEW INDIA’. IN TUNE WITH SWAMI JI’S GLOBAL OUTLOOK, I AM SURE THAT THE POLICY WILL HELP US DEVELOP GLOBAL CITIZENS. THE TIME IS RIPE WHEN INDIA SHALL EMERGE AS THE VISHWAGURU AND PROVE SWAMI VIVEKANANDA’S WORDS RIGHT THAT THE 21ST CENTURY BELONGS TO INDIA.**



dire need of awakening man to his spiritual self. Thus, true education for him did not aim merely at stuffing information in brains but rather aimed at reforming the human mind and instilling human values in students. For a long time, our traditional pedagogy has led to a surge in rote learning, thereby contributing to the evolution of a mechanical mind. In the process, the creativity of the students has been largely ignored. Thus, while pointing out the flaws in the present-day education system, Swami ji suggested that an ideal education system should have the definite goal of advancing life and developing the capacity and potential of a student. The

concept of ‘Learning by Doing’ held paramount importance for Swami Ji. He opined that a student must be able to apply all the concepts and ideas in her life that he/she has learnt as it promotes his/her physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual growth. Swami Vivekananda ardently embraced education as a means of ‘nation-building’. He believed that education was a potent tool for empowering the common masses. For him, the education which did not prepare the common masses for the struggle of life and did not bring out the strength of character in an individual was not real education. Real education for him was the one that enabled an individual to stand

on her legs and contribute to the cause of the nation. He also saw India as a living embodiment of different cultures which has been breathing for centuries. According to him, the cultural values of India must be integrated into the education curriculum, which shall ensure the perennial flow of Indian values into the global culture. To further understand the contemporary relevance of Swami Vivekananda’s educational thought, it is imperative to realise that amidst a mechanical education system across the globe, the world is in dire need of value education. While everything has reached its echelon in this materialistic era of science and technology, moral values have been side-lined. Though this steady deterioration of values concerns every nation yet for a long time, no country acted to restore its value system. However, I am proud that following the legacy of Swami Vivekananda and reflecting upon his ideas about education, we have taken a giant leap to ameliorate our education system while emphasising Swami Vivekananda’s mis-

sion of man-making and nation-building. The imprints of Swami Ji’s educational thought can be seen in the National Education Policy 2020 which attempts to establish an education system based on the foundation of Indian ethos and aims to transform India into global knowledge hub. The policy brings a paradigm shift from ‘What to think’ to ‘How to think’, thereby giving impetus to the students’ creativity. The policy emphasises the students’ experiential learning and recommends integrating the Indian Knowledge System & Indian Value System into the school curriculum to instil a deep-rooted pride in being Indian among the students. I am sure that the policy will pave the way from ‘capacity-building’ of our students to ‘nation-building’ and play a crucial role in the making of ‘New India’. In tune with Swami Ji’s global outlook, I am sure that the policy will help us develop global citizens. The time is ripe when India shall emerge as the Vishwaguru and prove Swami Vivekananda’s words right that the 21st century belongs to India.