

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the event: Celebrating
Swami Vivekananda's 163rd Birth Anniversary & 133rd Anniversary of
Visit to Japan**

06 June, 2026 -VCC, Embassy of India, Tokyo

Swami Medhasanand Ji, Vedanta Society of Japan, Dr Partha S Gosh, Dr
Kazuki Mae, Dr Shuvendu Majumder,
Distinguished guests,
Members of the Indian community,
Friends of India and Japan,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the Embassy of India in Tokyo as we gather to celebrate the 163rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda - one of India's greatest spiritual leaders, philosophers, and visionaries. It is particularly fitting that we are holding this seminar on the relevance of Swami Vivekananda's teachings in management in this auditorium, which is named the Vivekananda Cultural Centre—a testament to his enduring legacy and the timeless relevance of his message.

More than a century after his passing, Swami Vivekananda's ideas on leadership, character-building, self-confidence, discipline, and service continue to inspire individuals and institutions around the world. His teachings offer valuable insights not only for personal growth but also for effective management and ethical leadership in today's rapidly changing world. His life and message continue to inspire humanity across generations and across borders. More than a spiritual teacher, he was a global messenger of peace, universal brotherhood, self-confidence, and human dignity.

His historic address at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893 remains one of the defining moments in modern spiritual history. Through his words, he introduced India's timeless civilizational values of tolerance, harmony, and coexistence to the world.

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Swami Vivekananda believed deeply in the infinite potential of every human being. One of his most inspiring messages was: **“Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached.”** These words continue to motivate millions of young people around the world to pursue excellence with courage, determination, and discipline. He also reminded us of the importance of self-belief when he said: **“You cannot believe in God until you believe in yourself.”**

In today’s rapidly changing and often uncertain world, this message carries profound relevance. Vivekananda encouraged humanity to build inner strength, compassion, and confidence while remaining committed to service and moral responsibility. Another timeless teaching of Swami Vivekananda was: **“They alone live who live for others.”** This ideal of selfless service remains at the heart of India’s spiritual and cultural traditions and continues to inspire efforts toward social harmony and global welfare.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan held a very special place in Swami Vivekananda’s heart. During his travels in Asia, he admired Japan’s discipline, patriotism, cultural pride, and commitment to progress. He saw in Japan an example of how a nation could modernize while preserving its rich cultural heritage and spiritual values. These ideals resonate strongly with the deep and enduring friendship between India and Japan - two ancient civilizations connected by shared values of harmony, respect, and human development.

Today, India-Japan relations are stronger than ever, founded not only on strategic and economic cooperation but also on deep cultural and people-to-people ties. As we celebrate Swami Vivekananda’s legacy here in Tokyo, we also reaffirm our shared commitment to peace, understanding, and collective progress.

On this special occasion, let us draw inspiration from Swami Vivekananda’s timeless wisdom and work together to build a world guided by compassion, wisdom, courage, and unity.

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I would like to sincerely thank all the organizers from Vedanta Society, panelists, participants, and members of the community for joining us today and making this celebration meaningful.

Let me conclude with another powerful thought from Swami Vivekananda: **“In a conflict between the heart and the brain, follow your heart.”**

May his teachings continue to guide humanity toward peace and enlightenment.

Thank you very much.

Jai Hind. Arigato Gozaimasu
