



NABA BALLYGUNGE MAHAVIDYALAYA

(Formerly CHARUCHANDRA EVENING COLLEGE)

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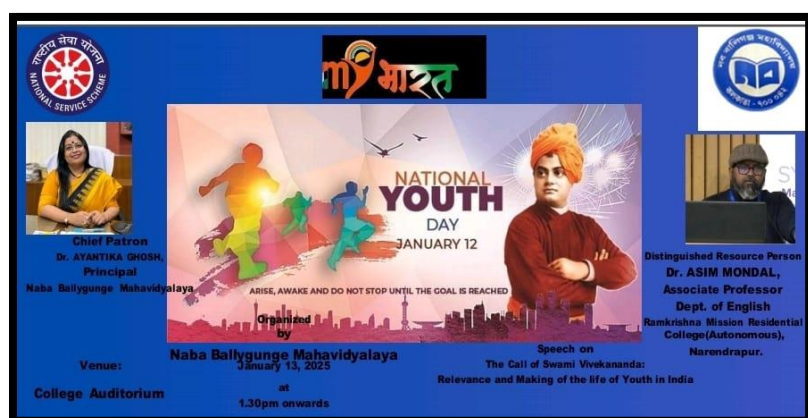
Seminar topic: *The Call of Swami Vivekananda: Relevance and Making of the Life of Youth in India*

Speaker: Dr Asim Mondal, Associate Professor, Department of English, Ramkrishna Mission Residential College (Autonomous), Narendrapur

Date: 13th January, 2025

No. of participant: 25

Link to the seminar on Institutional YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPE21NQcz6A>



Flyer of the seminar on “The Call of Swami Vivekananda: Relevance and Making of the Life of Youth in India” on 13.01.2025

The principal welcomed the resource person, staff and students and briefed them the reason why this seminar was organised. It is not only for the sake of paying tribute to Swami Vivekananda on his birth anniversary, but also for the sake of inspiring the youth guiding them with the true light. She expressed her hope that after this seminar, the youth who are now mostly misguided with despair, hopelessness, aimlessness will get a destination of eternal peace. She said that the 2 most important preachings of Swami Vivekananda, to the youth are that they must be honest and hard-working, The day's talk must ignite these 2 values in the students. Another important aspect that she mentioned about Vivekananda, is that Swamiji is not God, but a tangible human being of flesh and blood who prioritised playing football over reading *Geeta*, a human like the youth seated the other side of the podium. The mic was then handed over to the resources person.

The speaker began his lecture, showing a video, clipping on the life and works of Swami Vivekananda, including his legendary speech, at World Parliament of Religions at Chicago on 11th September 1893. He then began his lecture with reference to Swamiji taking admission as an English honours student in Scottish Church College, Kolkata, where he met the British teacher William Hastie, who first introduced the word "trance" to Vivekananda.


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Felicitatation of Dr Asim Mondal, the Resource Person
of the seminar

Dr. Mandal explained that trance is a state of mind that one achieves, which cannot be expressed through words and the British teacher commanded Naren Datta to go visit Dakshineswar at the Temple of Goddess Kali, where he would encounter the saint Ramakrishna Paramhansa. Vivekananda visited Ramakrishna and it is then that he understood the meaning of trance, because the god the saints had just gone through his *bhava-samadhi*, a sense of trance and unawareness of the materialistic world. Dr Mandal expressed that this lecture would be successful if couple of students are inspired and get a spark out of it. He further clarified that this trance is close to Wordsworth's pantheism, which is the extension of one's consciousness in everything and everybody around. In the speaker's words, one would get a thorough view of this transe in *Ramakrishna Kathamrita* written by Mahendranath Gupta, the best being the two volume akhanda *Kathamrita* which is a gospel for any youth looking for a pure saintly life.



Dr Asim Mondal, Associate Professor, Ramkrishna Mission
Residential College (Autonomous), Narendrapur, captivates
with his insightful talk on Swami Vivekananda on
13.01.2025 at Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya

Although Ramakrishna Paramhansa was uneducated and attended a pathshala till Standard IV, many luminaries, like Vivekananda, were touched by the holiness of this greatest saint of India, like Vidyasagar, Dr Nag Mahasay, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Keshab chandra Sen, Brajendranath Goswami, Michael Madhusudan Dutt and the theatre thespian Girish Chandra Ghosh.

Ghosh

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Vivekananda, in this life writings confessed that he was nothing without the enormous influence of Swamiji. If anything from his life had left impression in the palimpsest of time, then the credit goes to Ramakrishna. The speaker then went on to a lifetime preaching of Vivekananda, a message that inspires one to be compassionate and devote oneself to the service of mankind, encapsulates the message that Service to God lies in service to fellow human beings:

*Bahuroope Sammukhe toma chhari,
Kotha khunjicho ishwar,
Jibe prem kore jei jon
Sei jon sebichhey ishwar.*

Vivekananda stated that this is not his message but he has been inspired from Vedanta. It was an insightful talk because the speaker informed that the best sources to know Ramakrishna's life are not the internet sources but books like Ramakrishna Leela prasanga and the legendary kathamrita. Another interesting mention that the resource person made was about the rendezvous between Sri Sri Maa (Sarada Devi) and Sister Nivedita. An exemplary of pure ascetic life is reflected in the seamless heart-to-heart talk between a non-Anglicized woman from Joyrambati and an Irishwoman where language barrier could not act as an impediment and an interpreter was not needed to intervene and translate English into Bangla and vice versa. Doctor asim mandal concluded his lecture with the mention of 425 years , aesthetic travelling of swami vivekananda as a paribrajakar throughout india In Calcutta, Varanasi, Rajasthan, Almora, Mumbai, Southern part of India till he achieved Enlightenment at the Rock at Kanyakumari, enshrined as Vivekananda Rock.



Group photo of Principal, Resource person, teachers and students at the end of the seminar

Outcomes of the seminar:

The audience were able to:

- ✓ Be inspired with the greatness of Swamiji's teachings
- ✓ Be motivated to research on Vivekananda

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