

Bharat as the Vishwaguru

THE GLORIOUS LEGACY

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India's Path to Vishwaguru: Vivekananda to Modi

Swami Vivekananda aptly referred to India as 'Vishwaguru' and envisioned a nation reclaiming its former greatness by breaking free from both external and internal constraints that hindered its progress. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has echoed Vivekananda's vision, initiating a movement for India to regain its past glory, aspiring for the country to once again become the world leader, 'Vishwaguru.'

India's historical role as a 'Vishwaguru' was centered on guiding the world toward self development and enlightenment through a path of goodness and universal welfare. Prioritizing the collective welfare not only benefited individuals but also uplifted society. This approach, prevalent in ancient India, led to a prosperous society where every individual contributed. Key factors such as the wonders of Nalanda University, the origins of yoga, remarkable discoveries, achievements, and India's journey have been pivotal in positioning the country as a world leader.

Legacy & Leadership: India's Global Rise

In India's contemporary global standing as a world leader, there has been a significant shift from the traditional reliance on second-tier superpowers like the USA and the former USSR, now Russia. Countries now increasingly seek India's advice and solutions for their issues, valuing India's opinions as highly significant. India's stance of non-alignment since its independence has been pivotal. This policy, advocating independence in expressing opinions and views on global matters, has greatly contributed to India meeting its interests and establishing itself as an independent voice in the world. This approach has fostered trust among nations, highlighting India's reliability and leading to a substantial increase in its moral, cultural, national, and global standing. This was evident in India's success at the G20 Summit, where it facilitated consensus on critical issues like the Russia-Ukraine crisis and other contentious matters, playing the role of a negotiator and host, which was a remarkable achievement in global diplomacy.

The Vice-President emphasized India's growth and development by advocating for economic nationalism and a rekindling of the "Swadesh" spirit among the youth. He

The essence of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," meaning the world is one family, was deeply embedded in the practices of Nalanda University. This ancient institution played a pivotal role in disseminating knowledge across distant lands, serving as a catalyst for progress throughout the region. Its teachings, especially in Buddhist philosophy, manuscripts, and education, significantly influenced the landscape of Asia. Nalanda boasted distinguished diplomats, scholars, and merchants, contributing to the formulation of international relations and diplomacy, strengthening political and economic ties among kingdoms and empires, thereby fostering both regional and global stability. At the G20 summit, the showcasing of Nalanda University was a significant moment. Leaders gathered at Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan, where they admired and marveled at the knowledge encapsulated within the remains of the university. Despite being destroyed by Islamic invaders, the remnants of Nalanda have provided invaluable insights into ancient scientific, philosophical, and literary accomplishments, reflecting its profound historical significance.



highlighted the importance of embracing groundbreaking technologies like AI, IoT, machine learning, quantum computing, 6G, and green hydrogen, stating their potential to reshape industries and revolutionize life and work. Additionally, he commended India's infrastructural advancements with projects like the New Parliament building, Bharat Mandapam, and Yashobhoomi, noting their swift completion. The Vice-President also stressed the significance of a stress-free mindset in fostering creativity, innovation, and holistic development among students, promoting a well-rounded approach beyond academic achievements.

Yoga's Global Impact: India's Reach

The focus of this article shifts to the origins of Yoga in India and its global expansion. Yoga, rooted in ancient times, traces back to the Indus Valley Civilization, with its earliest mentions found in the Vedas. The term 'yoga' originates from the Sanskrit word 'yuj', meaning to unite or join. It encompasses physical postures (asanas), breath control (Pranayama), meditation (Dhyan), and ethical guidelines. With the onset of globalization, Yoga gained widespread traction in India and beyond, captivating interest for its holistic health benefits, inner peace, and stress alleviation. Swami Vivekananda and Paramhansa Yogananda introduced Yoga to the Western world, sparking curiosity due to its spiritual and physical advantages. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's 14th Prime Minister, notably contributed to elevating Yoga onto the global platform. Under his leadership, the UN declared June 21st as the International Day of Yoga in 2014, acknowledging Yoga's cultural and spiritual significance and its potential to foster well being and unity across borders. The concept of Yoga has not only united people transcending borders but also bolstered India's international relations. Through Yoga summits, workshops, and collaborations, India has actively engaged with nations, sharing knowledge about Yoga's principles and practices, facilitating people-to-people connections, and fostering mutual understanding.

Zero: India's Numerical Revolution

The discovery of zero stands as one of humanity's most remarkable achievements, significantly shaping the mathematical, scientific, and philosophical landscapes of ancient civilizations. Originating from Indian mathematicians, zero evolved from a mere numerical placeholder to a fundamental concept within numerical systems, finding its definitive place by the 9th century. This breakthrough not only solidified zero as both a numeral and a conceptual cornerstone but also contributed to the evolution of the place value system, revolutionizing mathematical calculations and their efficiency. Arab scholars during the Islamic Golden Age further expanded on this concept, laying the groundwork for the modern numeral system known as Arabic numerals. While commonly referred to as Hindu Arabic numerals, this system owes its foundation to the evolution of zero, showcasing the interconnectedness of human civilizations and the enduring legacy of intellectual contributions. These developments paved the way for the remarkable advancements seen in the modern era.

Ayurveda

The significance of Vedas and Ayurveda in India extends beyond spiritual and moral innovation; it encompasses contributions to both medicinal practices and hospital



ity. Ayurveda, an ancient holistic healing system deeply rooted in Vedic traditions, draws from texts like the Rigveda and Atharvaveda. It presents a holistic approach to achieving health and balance, personalized to an individual's constitution, lifestyle, and specific imbalances they might experience. Throughout history, Ayurveda's influence expanded, merging with traditional Chinese medicine and leading to the evolution of new holistic healing practices.

It also played a role in shaping the Unani system of medicine during the Islamic Golden Age. As a foundational system for holistic healing, Ayurveda continuously emphasizes the intricate relationship between nature, human well-being, and the timeless wisdom embedded in ancient traditions.

India's destiny as Vishwaguru is affirmed through its timeless wisdom and contributions. As stated by Swami Vivekananda, 'Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached.' Winston Churchill acknowledged India's pivotal role, 'India is the pivot of the world.' Today, Prime Minister Modi echoes this sentiment, 'India will play its role as Vishwaguru, leading with the spirit of unity and progress.' The journey continues, propelled by ancient heritage and modern Leadership, positioning India as a beacon of enlightenment and global leadership. In the grand narrative of history, India's timeless wisdom and rich heritage position it as a beacon of knowledge and enlightenment, poised to reclaim its role as Vishwaguru. As Lord Curzon once acknowledged, 'India, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition, has so much to offer to the world.' This legacy resonates today as India continues its journey towards global leadership, guided by its ancient ethos and visionary leadership.

India can be a Vishwaguru if we recall the words of Swami Vivekanand:

"Follow the rule, India will rule."