

Lesser known Facts About Swami Vivekananda

January 12 is celebrated as the National Youth Day in honour of Swami Vivekananda, who was born on this day. Swami Vivekananda was the man who took the Vedanta philosophy to the West and reformed Hinduism drastically. He travelled to the USA to attend the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago, in spite of being almost a pauper. He revolutionized the Orient philosophy and persuaded the West to accept that the Hindu philosophy is far more superior to others. Swami Vivekananda was born as Narendra Nath Dutta in an aristocratic Bengali family in Calcutta. Vivekananda toured the entire India and worked towards the upliftment of the poor and needy. He founded the famous Ramakrishna Mission and Belur Math in Calcutta that still dedicatedly works towards popularizing Hinduism and helping the needy.

Vivekananda Was An Average Student

Swami Vivekananda was a man of great charisma. His address at the Chicago Parliament of Religions is a classic masterpiece which put India into the top list of countries where spirituality still thrives. He was an active participant in the Indian freedom struggle against the British.

His charisma provoked the youth to arise to the call of the nation and do their duty to the country. The world knows him for his eloquent speeches. He scored only 47 percent at the University entrance level examination, 46 percent in the FA (later this exam became Intermediate Arts or IA) and 56 percent in his BA exam.

Vivekananda Never Got A Job

Swami Vivekananda was the name he took up after he became a monk. Originally, he was named as Vireshwara by his mother and was often referred to as 'Biley'. Later, he was named Narendra Nath Dutta. In spite of having a BA degree, Swami Vivekananda had to go from door to door in search of a job. He had almost turned an atheist as his belief in God was shaken.

A Guarded Secret

The Maharaja of Khetri, Ajit Singh, used to send 100 rupees to Swamiji's mother on a regular basis to help her cope with the financial problems. This arrangement was a closely guarded secret. After the death of his father, Swamiji's family lived in extreme poverty. His mother and sisters had to struggle hard to get a meal a day. Often, Swamiji went without food for days together so



that others in the family had enough.

Vivekananda's Love For Tea

Vivekananda was a connoisseur of tea. In those days, when the Hindu pandits were opposed to drinking tea, he introduced tea into his monastery. Swamiji once persuaded Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak to make tea at Belur Math. The great freedom fighter brought nutmeg, mace, cardamom, cloves and saffron with him and prepared Mughlai tea for all.

Swamiji Predicted His Own Death

Ramakrishna Paramahansa was the guru of Swami Vivekananda. During the initial days of learning with his teacher, Vivekananda never completely trusted him. He kept on testing Ramakrishna for everything that he said until he finally got all his answers.

It was to French operatic soprano Rosa Emma Calvet that Vivekananda had declared in Egypt that he would die on July 4. He passed away on July 4th, 1902.

Swamiji Had 31 Ailments Before He Passed Away

According to the book 'The Monk as Man' by renowned Bengali writer Shankar, Swami Vivekananda suffered from 31 ailments. The book lists insomnia, liver and kidney disease, malaria, migraine, diabetes and heart ailments as some of the 31 health problems that Vivekananda faced in the course of his life. He even suffered from asthma which got unbearable many times.

Here are some of the memorable quotes of Swami Vivekananda which are relevant even in today's world:

> "You have to grow from the inside out. None can teach you, none can make you spiritual. There is no other teacher but your own soul."

> "In a day, when you don't come across any problems - you can be sure that you are travelling in a wrong path."

> "Arise, awake, stop not till the goal is reached."

> "Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life; dream of it; think of it; live on that idea. Let the brain, the body, muscles, nerves, every part of your body be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success, and this is the way great spiritual giants are produced."

> "The fire that warms us can also consume us; it is not the fault of the fire."

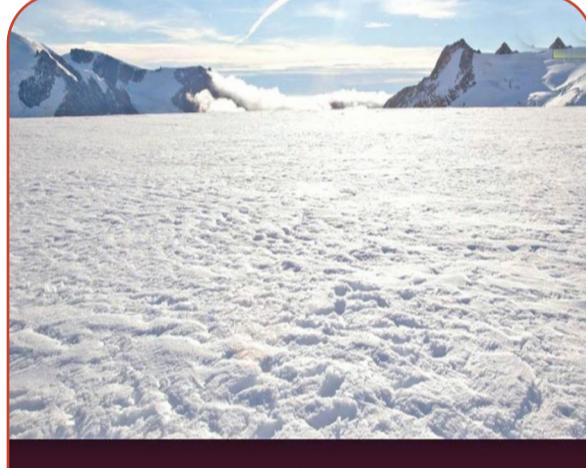
THE FACT CORNER



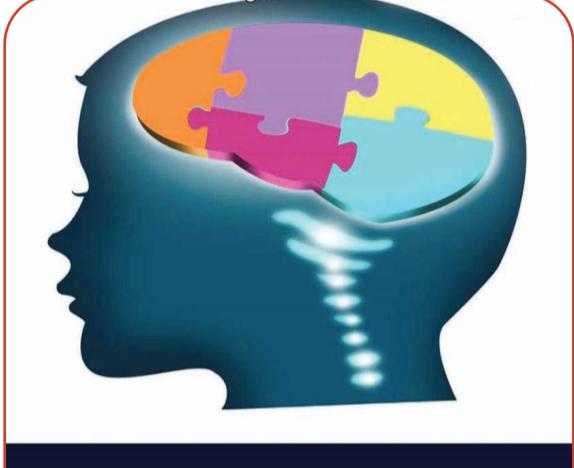
It's harder to go to sleep and sleep throughout the night when the moon is full



Whales do not drink seawater; instead, they extract water from their food by metabolizing the fat



Fresh snow can reflect 80% of UV light and can cause snow blindness which is a painful sunburn on your eyeball



Our minds are always cataloguing our memories and deciding what to keep and what to throw away

BRAIN TEASERS

1 Q. A merchant can place 8 large boxes or 10 small boxes into a carton for shipping. In one shipment, he sent a total of 96 boxes. If there are more large boxes than small boxes, how many cartons did he ship?

2 Q. If $9999 = 4$, $8888 = 8$, $1816 = 6$, $1212 = 0$, then $1919 = ?$

3 Q. A grandfather, two fathers and two sons went to the movie theater together and everyone bought one movie ticket each. How many tickets did they buy in total?

4 Q. If the zookeeper had 100 pairs of animals in

her zoo and if two pairs of babies are born for each and every one of the original animals, and then sadly 23 animal don't survive, how many animals do you have left in total?

5 Q. A little boy goes shopping and purchases 12 tomatoes. On the way home, all but 9 get mashed and ruined. How many tomatoes are left in a good condition?

6 Q. In an alien land far away, half of 10 is 6. If the same proportion holds true, then what is 1/6th of 30 in this alien land?

SOLUTION:
1. 11 cartons total
2. 4 also a son
3. 3 (the grandfather is also
200; $200 + 800 = 1000$; 1000
6. 6
5. Nine
- 23 = 977)

English Proverbs and Meanings

* **Every man for himself.**
You must think of your own interests before the interests of others.

* **He who hesitates is lost.**
If you delay your decision too long, you may miss a good opportunity.

* **He who plays with fire gets burnt.**
If you behave in a risky way, you are likely to have problems.

* **He who wills the end wills the means.**
If you are determined to do

something you will find away.

* **If you chase two rabbits, you will not catch either one.**
If you try to do two things at the same time, you won't succeed in doing either of them.

* **Lightning never strikes in the same place twice.**
An unusual event is not likely to occur again in exactly the same circumstances.

* **Many hands make light work.**
Sharing work makes work easier.

Onion Soup



Ingredients:
2 potato
1 cup veg stock
parsley as required
salt as required
Method:

Start by peeling and slicing onion, garlic, potato and carrot, separately. Take a saucepan, add butter and heat it over medium flame. When butter starts to melt, add onion slices and garlic in the pan. Sauté them over medium flame until onions are tender and golden brown in colour.

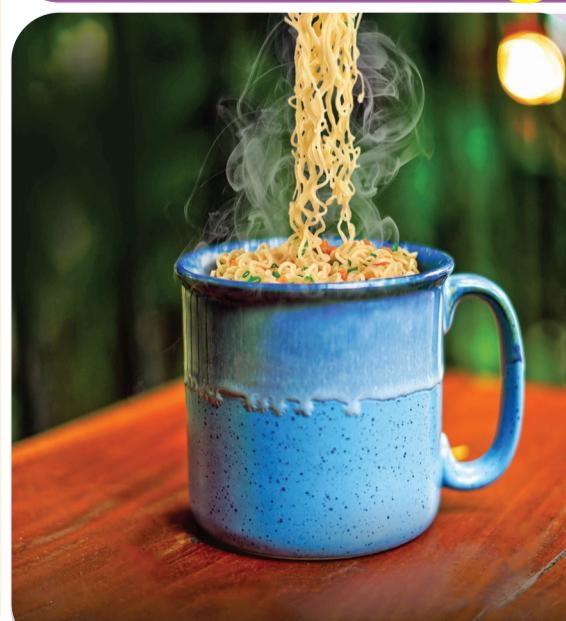
Heat veg stock and water in a large pan over medium flame. Add celery and parsley in veg stock. Sprinkle sugar, salt and black pepper and stir to mix the ingredients well. Cook the mixture for a minute or two and stir it occasionally. When it starts to boil, add onion and garlic mixture in it. Mix the ingredients well.

Add potato and carrot slices in the pan. Reduce the flame and simmer for 15 minutes on low flame. Remove from heat and transfer the mixture to a blender jar. Blend the mixture to make a smooth puree. Heat the smooth puree in a non-stick pan over medium flame for 5 minutes. Add croutons and serve it warm.

4 onion
2 tablespoon butter
1 carrot
1 litre water
2 tablespoon celery
black pepper as required
2 cloves garlic

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Mug Maggi



Ingredients:
1/2 cup maggi noodles
1 green chilli
2 cloves garlic
2 tablespoon maggi masala
2 tablespoon onion
2 tablespoon coriander leaves
water as required
Method:

To make this quick recipe, just take a microwavable cup/mug. Next, open the pack of Maggi and crush the noodles. In the meantime, preheat your oven.

Next, add in a cube of butter; add in chopped onion, garlic cloves and green chilli. Cook for 30 seconds.

Take it out and add in crushed Maggi, along with water and Maggi masala along with chopped coriander leaves.

Mix it all nicely. Cook it for 2 minutes. Take it out and serve hot.

Tips
You can also add some grated cheese and chili flakes to make it more delicious.

You can also add leftover chicken and oregano to give it a delightful twist.