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VEER SAVARKAR: THE REVOLUTIONARY LEADER

WHY IN THE NEWS?

Veer Savarkar has been in the news recently due to tributes paid to him by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on his death anniversary. PM Modi shared a heartfelt tribute on social media, stating that the nation can never forget Savarkar's invaluable contribution filled with penance, sacrifice, courage, and struggle in the freedom movement. The RSS and several other political leaders also honored his legacy, reaffirming his role as one of the most influential figures in India's freedom struggle and nationalist movement.



WHO WAS THE VEER SAVARKAR?

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, popularly known as Veer Savarkar, was a prominent freedom fighter, writer, poet, and political thinker. He played a crucial role in India's independence movement and is remembered for his staunch advocacy of Hindutva and revolutionary nationalism. He was a firm believer in armed struggle against British rule and was instrumental in inspiring many revolutionaries through his writings and activism.

BACKGROUND AND EARLY LIFE

Veer Savarkar was born on May 28, 1883, in the village of Bhagur, Maharashtra. From a young age, he exhibited a strong sense of patriotism and was deeply influenced by the rising nationalist sentiments in the

country. He pursued his higher education at Fergusson College in Pune, where he became actively involved in political movements.

In 1906, Savarkar traveled to London to study law, but his main objective was to organize revolutionary activities against British rule. While in London, he founded the Abhinav Bharat Society, a secret organization aimed at overthrowing British rule in India through armed revolution. His activities in London caught the attention of the British authorities, leading to his arrest in 1909 for his involvement in a conspiracy against British officials.

CONTRIBUTION TO INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Veer Savarkar played a crucial role in the freedom struggle through both direct revolutionary activities and intellectual contributions. Some of his key contributions include:

1. Promoting Revolutionary Activities

Savarkar was one of the earliest advocates of armed resistance against the British. He provided ideological guidance to various revolutionary groups and encouraged youth to take up arms.

2. Literary Contributions

His book, *The First War of Indian Independence (1857)*, argued that the 1857 revolt was not just a mutiny but India's first war of independence. This book inspired many revolutionaries, including Bhagat Singh and Subhas Chandra Bose.

3. Role in Secret Societies

Savarkar established and worked with secret societies such as Mitra Mela and Abhinav Bharat, which trained revolutionaries and spread nationalist sentiments.

4. Influence on Hindu Nationalism

He formulated the concept of Hindutva, emphasizing the cultural and national identity of Hindus. This ideology later played a crucial role in shaping Indian politics.

5. Years in Cellular Jail (Kala Pani)

Savarkar was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1911 and sent to the infamous Andaman Cellular Jail. Despite inhumane conditions, he continued to inspire fellow prisoners and wrote extensively on nationalism and history.

REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

Organization	Founder/Leader	Key Activities and Contributions
Abhinav Bharat	Veer Savarkar	Armed struggle, literature promoting revolution
Anushilan Samiti	Barindra Ghosh, Aurobindo Ghosh	Revolutionary training, attacks on British officials
Ghadar Party	Lala Har Dayal	Mobilized Indians abroad for armed resistance

Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)	Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad	Bombings, assassination of British officials
Indian National Army (INA)	Subhas Chandra Bose	Armed struggle against British rule with Japanese support

WHY REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISM HAD LIMITED IMPACT

Lack of Mass Support – The majority of Indians, including the Congress leadership, supported non-violent means rather than armed struggle.

British Repression – The British used harsh measures, including arrests, executions, and deportations, to suppress revolutionary activities.

Lack of Coordination – Revolutionary groups often worked in isolation without a unified strategy.

Limited Resources – Unlike the Congress, revolutionaries lacked financial and logistical resources to sustain prolonged resistance.

Appeal of Non-Violence – The rise of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent movement attracted widespread support, sidelining revolutionary groups.

SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISM

Even though revolutionary nationalism did not directly achieve independence, it had a profound impact on the freedom movement:

Inspiration for Future Movements – The bravery and sacrifices of revolutionaries inspired future freedom fighters and nationalists.

Fear Among British Authorities – The British recognized the threat posed by revolutionaries, leading to policy changes and reforms.

Pressure on British Rule – Continuous armed resistance forced the British to take Indian demands more seriously.

Legacy in Indian History – Many revolutionaries, including Veer Savarkar, continue to be celebrated as symbols of patriotism and resistance.

Contribution to Nationalist Literature – The writings of revolutionaries provided ideological motivation for generations of Indians.

CONCLUSION

Veer Savarkar was a pioneering revolutionary whose contribution to India's freedom struggle remains unparalleled. His vision of armed resistance and ideological commitment to nationalism left a lasting imprint on India's political landscape. Although revolutionary nationalism had a limited direct impact on securing independence, it played a crucial role in shaping nationalist consciousness and inspiring future generations. Today, Savarkar's legacy continues to spark discussions on nationalism, identity, and the nature of India's independence movement.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS:

Consider the following pairs:

List I (Revolutionary Organization)	List II (Member)
1. Abhinav Bharat	Ganesh Damodar Savarkar
2. Anushilan Samiti	Barindra Kumar Ghosh
3. Ghadar Party	Khudiram Bose
4. Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)	Sachindra Nath Bakshi
5. Indian National Army (INA)	B. C. Dutta

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 4, and 5
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 4

ANSWER: D

MAINS QUESTIONS:

Q. Discuss the role of revolutionary organizations in India's struggle for independence. How did they contribute to the nationalist movement, and what were their limitations? (250 words, 15 marks)

Nishant2356

MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR

WHY IN THE NEWS?

Mission Amrit Sarovar, launched in April 2022, aims to construct or rejuvenate 75 ponds in each district, totalling 50,000 across India. By January 2025, over 68,000 Sarovars have been completed, improving water availability and promoting long-term environmental sustainability. Phase II will focus on water availability, community participation, and strengthening climate resilience. The mission is supported by various government schemes and public contributions, emphasizing collaboration for lasting ecological benefits.



WHAT IS MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR?

Mission Amrut Sarovar is a government initiative launched on April 24, 2022, as part of India's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, marking the 75th year of independence. The mission aims to rejuvenate and construct Amrit Sarovars (water bodies) across rural India to address water scarcity, promote water sustainability, and improve ecological balance.

OBJECTIVES OF MISSION:

- 1. Rejuvenate and Construct Water Bodies:** The mission focuses on constructing and rejuvenating at least 75 Amrit Sarovars (ponds or water bodies) in each district across India, targeting 50,000 Amrit Sarovars nationwide.
- 2. Ensure Water Availability:** To overcome water scarcity and improve water availability in rural areas, providing a sustainable source of water for drinking, agriculture, and other local needs.
- 3. Promote Ecological Sustainability:** Improve the ecological health of water bodies by restoring their productive utility and promoting biodiversity.
- 4. Empower Local Communities:** Encourage community participation and engagement in water conservation and management through local bodies like Gram Sabhas and Panchayats, ensuring that development is community-driven.
- 5. Leverage Technology and Collaboration:** Utilize geospatial data and technology (with technical support from BISAG-N) for site identification, planning, and monitoring of the water bodies. The mission works through collaboration among multiple government departments, technical partners, and local communities.
- 6. Improve Livelihoods:** By enhancing water availability, the mission aims to support agricultural productivity, enhance livelihoods, and contribute to rural development.
- 7. Achieve Long-term Water Security:** Strengthen the resilience of rural areas against water-related challenges and foster sustainable water management practices that will benefit future generations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF MISSION

- 1. Exceeding Targets:** The initial target of constructing or rejuvenating 50,000 Amrit Sarovars was successfully achieved. As of January 2025, over 68,000 Amrit Sarovars have been completed, surpassing the original goal.

2. Wide Geographical Coverage: 81,000 Amrit Sarovars have been identified across the country, and work has started in over 81,000 locations, leading to a significant impact on rural water security.

3. Community Engagement: The initiative has emphasized community participation through Gram Sabhas and Panchayats, enabling local people to directly contribute to the planning and execution of water body projects.

4. Resource Mobilization: The mission has leveraged existing financial resources from schemes like Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, PMKSY, 15th Finance Commission grants, and other state-specific initiatives, enabling cost-effective and broad-based implementation.

5. Technological Integration: The use of geospatial data and technology through technical partner BISAG-N has enhanced the identification, planning, and monitoring of water bodies, ensuring accuracy and efficiency in the mission's execution.

6. Environmental and Ecological Benefits: Over 66,000 Amrit Sarovars constructed or rejuvenated have contributed to restoring the ecological balance of water bodies, improving biodiversity, and enhancing groundwater recharge.

SIGNIFICANCE OF MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR

1. Addressing Water Scarcity: India faces a severe water crisis, especially in rural areas. Mission Amrit Sarovar directly targets this challenge by creating sustainable water sources ensuring availability for drinking, irrigation, and other essential needs.

2. Long-Term Water Security: The mission ensures the sustainability of water resources by focusing on both the creation and rejuvenation of water bodies, fostering long-term water security and resilience against climate change.

3. Improved Agricultural Productivity: Access to water helps improve agricultural productivity in rural areas, benefiting farmers and their livelihoods, especially in water-scarce regions.

4. Promoting Ecological Restoration: By restoring water bodies, the mission contributes to biodiversity conservation, helps maintain the natural habitat, and supports wildlife ecosystems.

5. Empowering Communities: The involvement of local communities in the mission fosters ownership and empowerment, ensuring that the water bodies are effectively maintained and managed in the long run.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO WATER SCARCITY IN INDIA

1. Climate Change: Erratic rainfall patterns due to climate change result in droughts, floods, and uneven water distribution across regions, exacerbating water shortages in many areas.

2. Over-extraction of Groundwater: Excessive groundwater extraction for agriculture, drinking, and industrial use has led to falling groundwater levels, particularly in regions reliant on wells and borewells.

3. Rapid Urbanization: Urban expansion has resulted in reduced water catchment areas, contamination of water sources, and increased pressure on existing water resources.

4. Pollution of Water Sources: Industrial waste, sewage, and agricultural runoff containing harmful chemicals and pesticides pollute rivers, lakes, and groundwater, reducing the availability of clean water.

5. Inefficient Water Management: Lack of proper water conservation techniques, inefficient irrigation practices, and poor maintenance of existing water bodies contribute significantly to water scarcity.

6. Population Growth: Increased population puts pressure on available water resources, leading to overconsumption and competition for water across domestic, agricultural, and industrial sectors.

7. Water-Intensive Agriculture: Traditional farming practices in India are often highly water-intensive, using inefficient irrigation methods like flood irrigation, which depletes available water resources.

CONCLUSION

Mission Amrit Sarovar has emerged as a vital initiative in addressing India's growing water scarcity and ecological challenges. Launched in April 2022, the mission aimed to rejuvenate and construct Amrit Sarovars (water bodies) across rural India, targeting a nationwide network of 50,000 water bodies. By January 2025, the mission has surpassed expectations, with over 68,000 Amrit Sarovars already completed, showing a remarkable impact on water availability and community participation.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS:

Q. With reference to Mission Amrit Sarovar, consider the following statements:

1. The mission was launched on August 15, 2022, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
2. The mission was launched on August 15, 2022, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
3. This mission is implemented by Earth sciences

How many of the above-given statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Answer: B

MAINS QUESTIONS:

Q. Discuss the significance of Mission Amrit Sarovar in addressing India's water scarcity challenges. How does it contribute to long-term water sustainability (250 words, 15 marks)

Ritik singh

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