

Pak Hindus celebrates birth anniversary of Vivekananda

[Yudhvir Rana](#), TNN Jan 13, 2013, 02.24AM IST

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AMRITSAR: The brewing Indo-Pak tension was no dampener for the Hindus in Pakistan who celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda with cultural programmes and religious quiz competitions.

President of Pakistan Hindu Seva Welfare Trust (PHSWT) Sanjesh S Dhanja told TOI that they held a function at Radha Krishna temple, Steel Town, about 60km from Karachi, to mark the occasion.

"There are very few Hindus in Pakistan who know about the legendary spiritual leader so we decided to celebrate his birth anniversary to generate awareness," said Dhanja.

Detailed lectures on the life and teachings of Vivekananda were delivered and a quiz competition was held. Patron of PHSWT Mukhi Odha Mal said, "This is first of its kind programme ever held in Pakistan on Vivekananda since Partition and I saw a lot of enthusiasm among the Hindu community especially the younger generation."

Priest of temple [Ramesh Kumar](#) Acharya said that young children were highly impressed by the teachings of Swami Vivekananda. "Now it is one of our mission to make birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda an annual affair in Pakistan" he said.

Sanjesh said that on the occasion they also held 2nd Bhagwat Gita Quiz Competition . The first such competition was held in the month of June 2012. Sanjesh said, " A Hindu, Baboo Kothari, who had arrived to participate in the birth celebration function of Swami Vivekananda, coming all the way from Mitti in Sindh was so much impressed with the function that he announced to hold birth celebration function of Swami Vivekananda in Hanuman Temple every year."

Reacting on the brewing tension between India and Pakistan, Sanjesh said, " Our aim is to [spread](#) the message of peace".