



## Guru Ravidas Jayanti

 [drishtiias.com/printpdf/guru-ravidas-jayanti](https://drishtiias.com/printpdf/guru-ravidas-jayanti)

### Why in News

Guru Ravidas Jayanti was celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

- Ravidas Jayanti is **celebrated on Magh Purnima**, the full moon day in the month of Magh according to the Hindu lunar calendar.
- Guru Ravidas was a 14<sup>th</sup> century saint and reformer of the **Bhakti movement** in North India.
- It is believed that he was born in Varanasi in a cobbler's family.
- He gained prominence due to his belief in one God and his unbiased religious poems.
- He dedicated his whole life to the abolition of the caste system and openly despised the notion of a Brahminical society.
- His devotional songs made an instant impact on the Bhakti Movement and around 41 of his poems were included in '**Guru Granth Sahib**', the religious text of the Sikhs.

### Bhakti Movement

- The development of the Bhakti movement took place in Tamil Nadu between the seventh and ninth centuries.
- It was reflected in the emotional poems of the Nayanars (devotees of Shiva) and Alvars (devotees of Vishnu). These saints looked upon religion not as a cold formal worship but as a loving bond based upon love between the worshipped and worshipper.
- In course of time, the ideas of the South moved up to the North but it was a very slow process.
- A more effective method for spreading the Bhakti ideology was the use of local languages. The Bhakti saints composed their verses in local languages.
- They also translated Sanskrit works to make them understandable to a wider audience. Examples include Jnanadeva writing in Marathi, Kabir, Surdas and Tulsidas in Hindi, Shankaradeva popularising Assamese, Chaitanya and Chandidas spreading their message in Bengali, Mirabai in Hindi and Rajasthani.

**Source: PIB**