



# Guru Ravidas Jayanti

## Why in News

Guru Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated on Magh Purnima (27<sup>th</sup> February 2021), the full moon day in the month of Magh according to the Hindu lunar calendar.

## Key Points

### ▪ About Guru Ravidas:

- He was a **14<sup>th</sup> century saint and proponent 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 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**