



Guru Ravidas Jayanti

Why in News

Guru Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated on Magh Purnima (27th 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 **14th 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