

2020



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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**INDIAN CULTURE AND  
HISTORICAL EVENTS**

10<sup>th</sup> February - 15<sup>th</sup> February



BusinessLine



## 1. Guru Ravidas Jayanti

### Why in News?

Guru Ravidas Jayanti was celebrated on 9th February, 2020.

- Ravidas Jayanti is **celebrated on Magh Purnima**, the full moon day in the Hindu calendar month of Magh.

### Guru Ravidas

- Guru Ravidas was a 14th century saint and reformer of the **Bhakti movement** in North India.
- Ravidas was one of the disciples of the bhakti saint-poet Ramananda and a contemporary of the bhakti saint-poet Kabir.
  - One of his famous disciples was Mirabai.
- 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.

### Teaching of Guru Ravidas:

- He gave the people a message of peace, harmony and fraternity.
- He made people aware of the evils of discrimination and urged overcoming them.
- His teachings deal with the Nirguna-Saguna theme.
  - Nirguna is knowledge-focused and Sarguna is love-focused.
  - These two were alternate ways of imagining god during the Bhakti movement.
- 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.
  - The Adi Granth of Sikhs, in addition to the Panchvani are two of the oldest documented sources of the literary works of Guru Ravidas.
- He dedicated his whole life to the abolition of the caste system and openly despised the notion of a Brahminical society.
- He taught about the omnipresence of God and said that a human soul is a particle of God.

### Bhakti Movement

- The development of the Bhakti movement took place in Tamil Nadu between the seventh and ninth centuries.
  - It slowly percolated to the northern belt by the end of the 15th century.
- 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.
- 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.
- The Bhakti saints believed that salvation can be achieved by all.
- They made no distinction of caste, creed or religion before God.
- The saints stressed equality, disregarded the caste system and attacked institutionalised religion.
- They did not confine themselves to purely religious ideas but advocated social reforms too.
  - They opposed sati and female infanticide.
  - Women were encouraged to join kirtans.

## 2. Chindu Yakshaganam

The Chindu Yakshaganam is an age-old theatre art form popular in **Telangana**.

- The art form dates back to the second century BC.
- It is **similar to Yakshaganam**, a traditional theatre form particular to Karnataka.
- It is a theatre art form that combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form.
- The word '**Chindu**' in Telugu means '**jump**'.
- It is performed by Chindu Madiga.
- The Chindu Yakshaganam is also called Chindu Bhagavatam as most of the stories narrated are from 'Bhagavatam'.
  - Bhagavatam refers to the **Bhagavata Purana** which can be translated as 'the history of the devotees of Vishnu'.

## 3. Three tribes in Karnataka added to Schedule Tribe Category

**Why in News?**

Parivara, Taliwara and Siddi tribes will now be included in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category in Karnataka.

### **Siddi Tribes:**

- The Siddi tribes of Karnataka are believed to have descended from the **ethnic Swahili group** of Southeast Africa who were treated as slaves by Portuguese merchants.
- They are predominantly found in the western coastal states of **Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka**.
- They primarily reside in Dharwad, Belagavi and Uttar Kannada districts of Karnataka.
- They are included in the list of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG's)**.

### **Parivara and Taliwara Tribes:**

- Pariwara and Taliwara are socially, politically, economically and educationally backwards communities.
- They have been recognised as synonyms of Nayaka tribe which are already included in the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST) of Karnataka.
- They majorly reside in Mysore, Chamrajanagara, Mandya and Tumkur districts.

### **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG's)**

- They are less developed groups among the tribals.
- 75 tribal groups have been categorised by the Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)s.
- PVTGs reside in **18 States** and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- They use relatively old technology for agriculture and other activities.

## **4. Konark Sun Temple**

### **Why in News?**

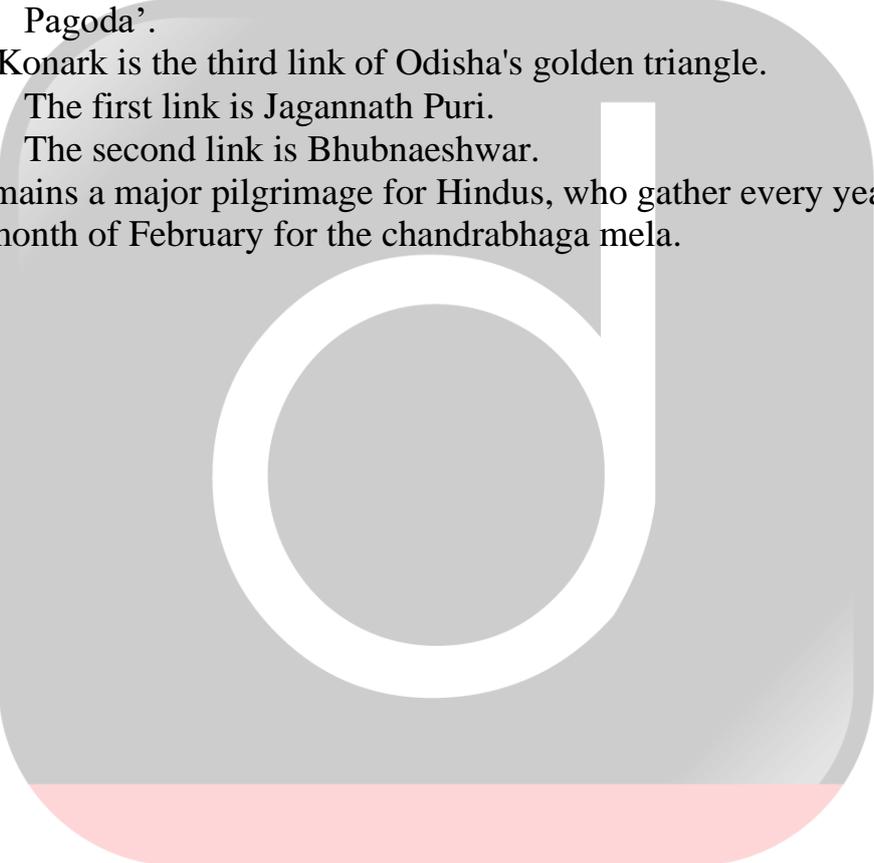
A plan to restore and preserve the nearly 800-year-old Konark Sun Temple in Odisha would be drawn up soon.

- It had been filled with sand and sealed by the British authorities in 1903 in order to stabilize the structure.
- A scientific study was carried out by the Roorkee-based central building research institute from 2013 till 2018 to ascertain the temple's structural stability as well as the status of the filled in sand.

### **Konark Sun Temple**

- The temple was made by Narasimhadeva I, the Eastern Ganga king in the 13th century in Puri, Odisha.
- The temple is in a shape of "Rath" (Chariot) with mandapa on a raised platform.

- The temple belongs to the Kalinga School of Temple Architecture and follows the East-West alignment of the Sun.
- The temple represents a chariot of the Sun God, with twelve pairs of wheels drawn by seven horses evoking its movement across the heavens.
- It was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1984.
- It is also known as the 'Black Pagoda' because it is built out of black granite.
  - Similarly, the Jagannath temple in Puri was called the 'White Pagoda'.
- The Konark is the third link of Odisha's golden triangle.
  - The first link is Jagannath Puri.
  - The second link is Bhubnaeshwar.
- It remains a major pilgrimage for Hindus, who gather every year around the month of February for the chandrabhaga mela.



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