

2020



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

**INDIAN CULTURE AND
HISTORICAL EVENTS**

10th February - 15th 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?

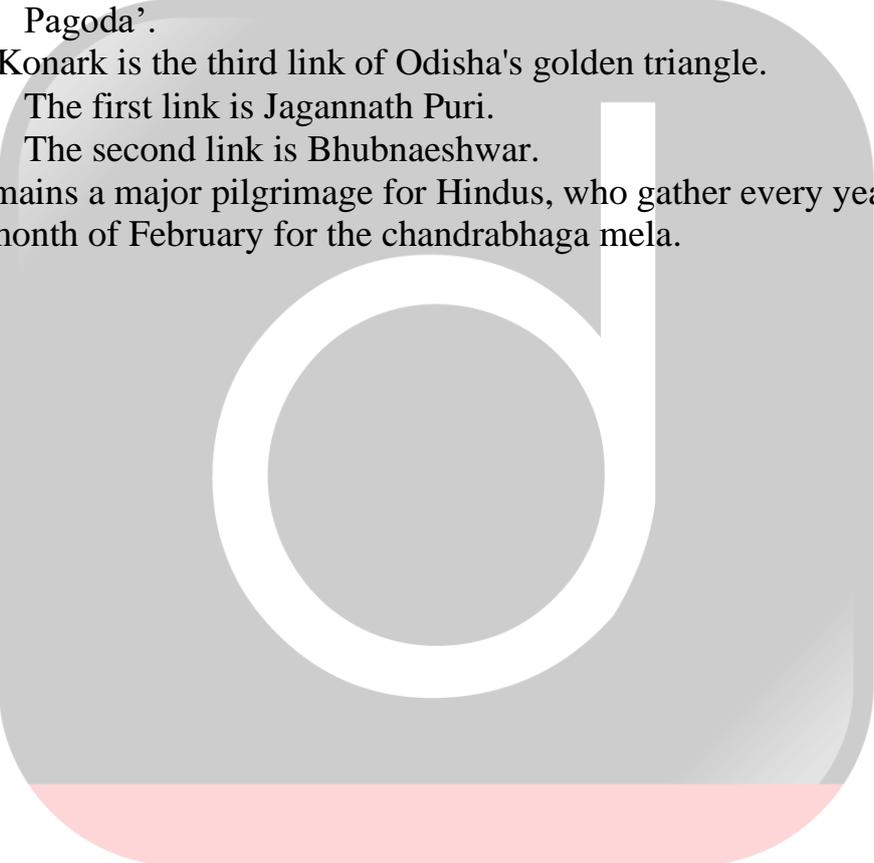
A plan to restore and preserve the nearly 800-year-old Konark Sun Temple in Odisha would be drawn up soon.

- 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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