



## Basava Jayanthi

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### Why in News

The Prime Minister greeted the people on Global Basava Jayanthi – 2020 held digitally on April 26, 2020, connecting followers in India and abroad.

Basava Jayanthi is an annual event celebrated in the honour of the **birth of Vishwaguru Basaveshwara, the 12<sup>th</sup> century philosopher and social reformer** who gave a unique spiritual path to mankind.



### Key Points

- Basaveshwara was born in **Bagevadi (of undivided Bijapur district in Karnataka) during 1131 AD**. He is the **founding saint of the Lingayat sect**.
- His spiritual discipline was based on the principles of **Arivu (true knowledge), Achara (right conduct), and Anubhava (divine experience)** and it brought social, religious and economical revolution in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- This path advocates a **holistic approach of Lingangayoga (union with the divine). This comprehensive discipline encompasses bhakti (devotion), jnana (knowledge), and kriye (action)** in a well balanced manner.
- In Kalyana, the **Kalchuri king Bijjala (1157-1167, AD)** appointed Basaveshwara as a karanika (Accountant) in the initial stage, in his court and later as the Prime minister.
- Here, Basaveshwara **revolted against all the social evils** of the traditionalistic society and brought a drastic change in various facets.

- His practical approach and act of establishment of '**Kalyana Rajya**' (**Welfare state**) brought a new status and position for all the citizens of the society, irrespective of **class, caste, creed and sex**.
- **Anubhava Mantapa:**
  - He established the Anubhava Mantapa, which was a common forum for all to discuss the prevailing problems of socio, economic and political strata **including religious and spiritual principles along with personal problems**.
  - Thus, it was the first and foremost Parliament of India, where **Sharanas (citizens of welfare society)** sat together and discussed the **socialistic principles of a Democratic set up**.
  - All those **discussions of Sharanas** were written in the form of **Vachanas**.  
Vachanas were an innovative literary form written in **simple Kannada language**.
- Basaveshwara gave two more very **important socio-economic principles**. They are:
  - **Kayaka (Divine work):** According to this, every individual of the society should take up the job of his choice and perform it with all sincerity.
  - **Dasoha (Equal distribution):**
    - There must be an equal income for equal work.
    - The worker (Kayakajeevi) may lead his day-today life by his hard earned income. But he should not preserve the money or property for tomorrow. He must utilise the surplus money for the society and poors.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the statue of Basavanna along the bank of the river Thames at Lambeth in London.

**Source : PIB**