

Guru Ravidas ji

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in News?

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Punjab to mark the 649th Birth Anniversary of Saint Guru Ravidas Ji.

- **Guru Ravidas Ji** - Saint and poet of the Bhakti Movement in North India.
- **Born in - 1377 C.E**
- On a Magh Purnima in Seer Gobardhanpur, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Parents** - Baba Santokh Dass Ji (father) & Mata Kalsi (mother).
- **Caste** - Born in a **low-caste (Chamar) family; worked as a cobbler.**
- **Contributions** - Advocated equality, social justice, and spiritual freedom, opposing caste- and gender-based discrimination.
- Emphasized devotion to God (Naam) over rituals, wealth, or social status, promoting personal spiritual freedom.
- Famous for poems highlighting contentment, humility, and inner devotion.
- **Key Teachings - Caste and creed are man-made** - He advocated that all can approach God irrespective of social status.
- **Spiritual wealth vs material wealth** - True happiness lies in devotion, not accumulation of riches.
- **Humility and devotion** - Vanity, pride, and high birth are obstacles to attaining divine grace.
- **Literary Contributions -**
- **Poems** - Sri Adi Granth contains 40-Hymns (one of which is a repetition) and One-Couplet of Guru Ravidass ji.
 - It was compiled by Guru Arjun Dev ji, the fifth Guru of the Sikhs, and was completed in 1604 A.D.
- **Languages** - Hindi, Urdu, Persian, and regional dialects.
- **Themes** - Love, devotion, equality, spiritual wisdom.
- **Legacy - Religion** - Influenced 21st-century followers to establish a distinct religious identity.
- **Revered in** - Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra.

- **Sacred sites** - Banaras, Chittor, Tirupati, Ellora, Junagadh.
- Guru Ravidas Ji is **regarded as the “Sunlight of the World”**, guiding people out of the darkness of ignorance and social oppression.
- **Royal disciples** - Princess Mirabai and King Nagar Mal became disciples.
- **Guru Nanak Dev** - Influenced Guru Nanak Dev with the secrets of Naam.
- Also, influenced Sikh scriptures and philosophy.
- **Significance - Social reformer** - Challenged caste hierarchy, encouraged communal harmony.
- **Spiritual mentor** - Guided both royals and commoners with humility and grace.
- **Enduring influence** - Praised by Saints like Kabir, Tukaram, Nanak Dev Ji, Dadu, Namdev.

References

1. [PIB | Saint Guru Ravidas](#)
2. [Life of Guru Ravidas Ji](#)
3. [NDTV | Guru Ravidas Jayanti](#)

