Savitribai Phule

Why in News?

Every year on January 3, people celebrate Savitribai Phule Jayanti.

- **Background** – A Dalit woman from the Mali community from Naigaon village in Maharashtra.
- **Education** – She is the ***1st Indian woman teacher***.
- She and her husband Jyotirao Phule open a school for girls in Pune, in 1848 and this became the ***country's 1st girls' school***.
- During her tenure, she established 17 schools across the nation.
- **Social reforms** – She advocated inter-caste marriages, widow remarriage, and eradication of child marriage, sati and dowry systems, among other social issues.
- **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha** – A childcare centre for the protection of pregnant widows and rape victims.
- **Satyashodhak Samaj** *('Truth-seekers' society')* – It was setup in 1873 by both of them.
- It is a platform open to all, irrespective of their caste, religion or class hierarchies, with the sole aim of bringing social equity.
- **Literary works** – She published her 1st collection of poems, called *Kavya Phule ('Poetry's Blossoms'),* at the age of 23 in 1854.
- She published Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar ('The Ocean of Pure Gems'), in 1892.
- Matushri Savitribai Phlenchi Bhashane va Gaani (S'avitribai Phule's speeches and songs'), and her letters to her husband have also been published.
- Her Marathi poetry promoted ideals such as equality, liberty, humanism, and the significance of education.
- **Recognition** – In honour of her great work towards women's education, January 3 is observed as ***Women's Education Day***.

Reference

1. Business Standard| Women Education Day
2. The Indian Express| Savitribai Phule's Contribution