

## Sri Veerabhadreshwar Temple and Veerashaivism

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### Why in News?

Recently, the Vice-President of India participated as the Chief Guest at the inauguration of the Rajagopuram, Kalasarohan and Mahakumbhabhishekam ceremony at Sri Veerabhadreshwar Temple.

- **Location** - Situated at Shri Kshetra Yadur, on the **banks of the Krishna River in Belagavi district, Karnataka.**
- **Historical Origin** - Founded in the **12th century by Veerashaiva saint Shri Kadsiddeshwar,** and the temple is about 800 years old.
- **Temple Deities -Main Deity** - Shri Veerabhadra, a fierce manifestation of Lord Shiva and Shri Bhadrakalamma Devi.
- **Sacred Symbol** - The Shivalinga is known as “Shri Veerupakshalinga.”

### Veera-Shaiva Lingayat Tradition

- Veerashaivas (or Lingayats) are **devotees of Lord Shiva who worship the Linga as the supreme symbol of divinity.**
- **Emergence** - The movement emerged as a religious and social reform movement in the 12th century in Karnataka.
- **Key Leader** - Basaveswara (Basava) played a central role in spreading the movement.
- **Core Idea** - All devotees wearing the Ishtalinga (personal Linga) are considered equal irrespective of caste, gender or occupation.
- **Key Features - Worship of the Linga** - Devotees wear and worship a personal Ishtalinga, symbolising direct connection with Lord Shiva.
- **Anti-ritualism** - Rejected elaborate rituals, sacrifices and idol worship.
- **Anti-pollution Ideology** - Opposed the Brahmanical concepts of ritual purity and pollution, including caste-based discrimination.
- **Equality** - Emphasised ritual equality, dignity of labour and equal access to salvation.

- **Kayaka Principle** - Promoted the idea that all work is sacred and should be done with dedication and devotion.
- **Organisational Structure - Mathas** - Religious institutions that propagated Lingayat teachings, education and social service.
- **Jangamas** - Religious teachers who travelled and spread the doctrines of Veerashaivism.

## References

1. [PIB | Sri Veerabhadreshwar Temple, Yadur, Belagavi](#)
2. [Egyankosh | Veerashaivism](#)

