Sri Veerabhadreshwar Temple and Veerashaivism

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Art & Culture*

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

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