

22 Feb 2020: PIB Summary and Analysis

1. Basaveshwara

- He is also known as Bhaktibhandari/ Basavanna.
- Basava was a 12th century Indian philosopher, Kannada poet in the **Shiva-focussed Bhakti movement** and a social reformer during the reign of the **Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I in Karnataka**.
- His life and ideas are narrated in the sacred text of the south Indian **Hindu Lingayat community, the Basava Purana**.
- Basava spread social awareness through his **poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas**.
- Basava **rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals such as the wearing of sacred thread**, but introduced **Ishtalinga necklace, with an image of the Shiva Linga**, to every person regardless of his or her birth, to be a constant reminder of one's bhakti (devotion) to Shiva.
- Vachana is a prosaic form well known in the Kannada literature which propagates values of universal brotherhood.

Contribution to society

- He had promoted a culture of collective discussion which was called 'Anubhav Mantapa'. This is remembered as one of the **world's first parliaments** where people were encouraged to speak their mind irrespective of their social status.
- This was also a unique experiment of **gender equality** as women were also encouraged to take part in discussions and express their views.
- He discarded his brahminical identity and argued for a **non-hierarchical society**. His message was inclusive and argued for a diverse society and rejected an exclusive State favouring one caste or one religion.
- Basavanna encouraged men and women from the lowest of the lower castes to practice social equality and actively participate in building and contributing to a healthy society.

Context

- Hon'ble President of India speaks about Basaveshwara at the Hindu 'Huddle' event at Bengaluru

2. International Judicial Conference

- The aim of the International Judicial Conference is to facilitate cross-fertilisation of ideas between judges of India and those from abroad.
- The conference will serve as a marketplace of ideas

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the International Judicial Conference in New Delhi
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3. PM inaugurates first Khelo India University Games

Context

- Prime Minister inaugurated the first Khelo India University Games in Odisha via video link.

Details

[PIB 21st February 2020](#)