

# Sant Kabir Das

June 26, 2021

## In news

24th June marked the birth anniversary of Sant Kabir Das.

## About Sant Kabir Das

- Kabirdas Jayanti also known as **Kabir Prakat Diwas** is celebrated once a year on the full moon day in the Hindu month Jyeshtha.
- It was sometime in the mid 15th century that the poet-saint Kabir Das was born in Kashi (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh). However, Sant Kabir's birth and death are unclear.
- Even sources discussing his life are scanty. Earliest sources include the Bijak and Adi Granth.
- Some believe that he took birth from Muslim parents, while others insist that he appeared on a lotus flower in the lake Lahartara.
- According to the Gregorian calendar, Kabirdas Jayanti falls in the month of May or June.
- In Indian tradition, he is commonly supposed to have lived for 120 years from 1398 to 1518, which "permits him to **be associated with other famous figures such as Guru Nanak and Sikander Lodi**.
- Sant Kabirdas was best known for his two-line couplets, known as '**Kabir Ke Dohe**'.
- Kabir's poems were in vernacular Hindi, borrowing from various dialects including Braj and Awadhi
- They cover various aspects of life and call for a loving devotion for God.
- Kabir and his followers named his verbally composed poems of wisdom as "bāṅīs" (utterances).

## His philosophy

- Kabir's poetry is a reflection of his philosophy about life. His writings were mainly based on the concept of reincarnation and karma.
- He believed in living life in a very simplistic manner.
- He had a strong faith in the concept of oneness of God
- He was against the caste system imposed by the Hindu community and also opposed the idea of worshipping the idols.
- On the contrary, he advocated the Vedantic concepts of atman.
- He supported the idea of minimalist living that was advocated by the Sufis.
- He preached Bhakti or 'Devotion' through the medium of his 'Dohas'.

## His ideas

- **Love:** Love for all was Kabir's principal tenet. He emphasized that love was the only medium which could bind the entire human kind in an unbreakable bond of fraternity.
- **God:** He said God was everywhere and His domain is unlimited.
- **Teacher:** In Kabir's dictum the Teacher or 'Guru' has been accorded the prime position. The teacher, according to him, was the incarnation of God.
- **Bhakti:** Kabir stressed that the only way to attain God was through the path of Bhakti. Kabir advised his followers to attain Godhood through the path of Bhakti.
- **Soul:**
  - Soul according to him was life, breath and knowledge.
  - It was a part of the 'ultimate knowledge'.
  - The soul itself was the creation and it also was the creator & destroyer.

- **Impermanence:** Kabir asserted the impermanence of all things in the world
- **Salvation:** Liberation according to him was a state of “fearlessness”. Liberation implied freedom from the pangs of life and death.
- **Nature of Saint:** A saint according to Kabir should give up all trivialities and preserve only the kernel of all knowledge.

### **His works:**

Literary works with compositions attributed to Kabir include *Kabir Bijak*, *Kabir Parachai*, *Sakhi Granth*, *Adi Granth* (Sikh), and *Kabir Granthawali* (Rajasthan).

However, except for *Adi Granth*, significantly different versions of these texts exist and it is unclear which one is more original; for example, *Kabir Bijak* exists in two major recensions