Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid homage to Lord Basaveshwara and greeted the people on the occasion of Basava Jayanthi, the Birthday anniversary of Lord Basaveshwara, in a video message on 26th April, 2020.

Basava Jayanthi is an annual event celebrated in the honour of the birth of Vishwaguru Basaveshwara, the 12th century philosopher and social reformer.

Global Basava Jayanthi – 2020 is being held digitally today, connecting followers in India and abroad.

Lord Basaveshwara

- Lord Basaveshwara is a 12th Century Kannada social reformer, poet and philosopher, who is considered as one of the most revered saints by the Lingayat sect. Reports suggest he was born in 1131 AD in Bagevadi (now in Bijapur, Karnataka) to a Brahmin family.
- Basaveshwara believed in caste, creed, class, gender equality.
- Lord Basaveshwara, or Basavanna, worked towards uplifting the underprivileged classes and women, and believed that all humans are equal, irrespective of class, caste, creed, and gender.
- It is said he denounced the sacred janeu thread- worn by upper-caste Hindus, particularly Brahmins- at a young age in hopes to transform himself and achieve spiritual bliss.
- Basaveshwara spread his teachings through poetry (Vachanaas).
- He denounced superstitions and rituals, introducing an Ishta linga necklace, bearing a shiva-linga image, to mark equality.
- He also introduced a hall of spiritual acceptance, Anubhava Mantapa, where people of all origins could ask spiritual and mundane questions of life.
- Basaveshwara popularized the principles of Kayakave Kailasa (work is worship) and Dasoha (giving back to society).
- Basaveshwara statue is on the bank of river Thames in London, United Kingdom.