



Statue of Adi Shankaracharya

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Why in News?

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (M.P) unveiled the 108 feet high '**Statue of Oneness**' of **Adi Shankaracharya** on **Mandhata mountain** at Omkareshwar in Khandwa district, M.P and laid the foundation stone of Advaita Lok.

Why is the Mandhata Consider Significant?

- The Mandhata island, **nestled on the Narmada River**, is home to **two of the 12 Jyotirlingas** - Omkareshwara (located on the south side of the island) and Amareshwara.
- The island is dotted **with Shaivite, Vaisnavite, and Jain temples** dating back to the 14th and 18th centuries.
- The name '**Omkareshwar**' is **derived from the shape of the island**, which resembles the sacred syllable 'Om', and its name means 'the Lord of Omkara'.



Who was Adi Shankaracharya?

- **About:**
 - Known as **Adi Shankara(788-820 CE)**, born at **Kaladi near Kochi, Kerala**.
 - Took Samadhi at the age of 33, at **Kedar tirth**.
 - He was a **devotee of Shiva**.

- He is said to have arrived at Omkareshwar as a young monk, where he encountered his **Guru Govind Bhagwadpad.**
- Resided in the sacred city for four years, and received his education .
- He departed Omkareshwar at the age of 12 and embarked on a journey across the nation, **disseminating the teachings of Advaita Vedanta philosophy** and elucidating its principles to the people.
- Propounded the **Doctrine of Advaita (Monism)** and wrote many commentaries on the **Vedic canon** (Upanishads, Brahma Sutras and Bhagavad Gita) in Sanskrit.
- He was **opposed to Buddhist philosophers.**
- **Major Work:**
 - **Brahmasutrabhasya (Bhashya or commentary on the Brahma Sutra).**
 - **Bhajagovinda Stotra.**
 - **Nirvana Shatakam.**
 - **Prakaran Granths.**
- **Other Contributions:**
 - Was responsible for **reviving Hinduism** in India to a great extent when Buddhism was gaining popularity.
 - Established **four Mathas** in the four corners of India at **Sringeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath-** for propagation of Sanathana Dharma

What is Advaita Vedanta ?

- It articulates a philosophical position of **radical nondualism**, a revisionary worldview which it derives from the ancient Upanishadic texts.
- According to Advaita Vedantins, the Upanishads reveal **a fundamental principle of nonduality termed 'brahman', which is the reality of all things.**
- Advaitins understand brahman as transcending individuality and empirical plurality.
- They seek **to establish that the essential core of one's self (atman) is brahman.**
- The fundamental thrust of Advaita Vedanta is that the atman is pure non-intentional consciousness.
- It is **one without a second, nondual, infinite existence, and numerically identical with brahman.**

Other Famous Statue

- Previously, Prime Minister (PM) of India inaugurated the **Statue of Equality** on the outskirts of Hyderabad to commemorate the **11th-century Bhakti saint Sri Ramanujacharya** on his **1,000th birth anniversary.**
- In 2018, PM inaugurated the **Statue of Unity** in **Gujarat's Kevadia** in memory of former deputy Prime Minister **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**