

Union Minister Visits Vallabhacharya Ashram

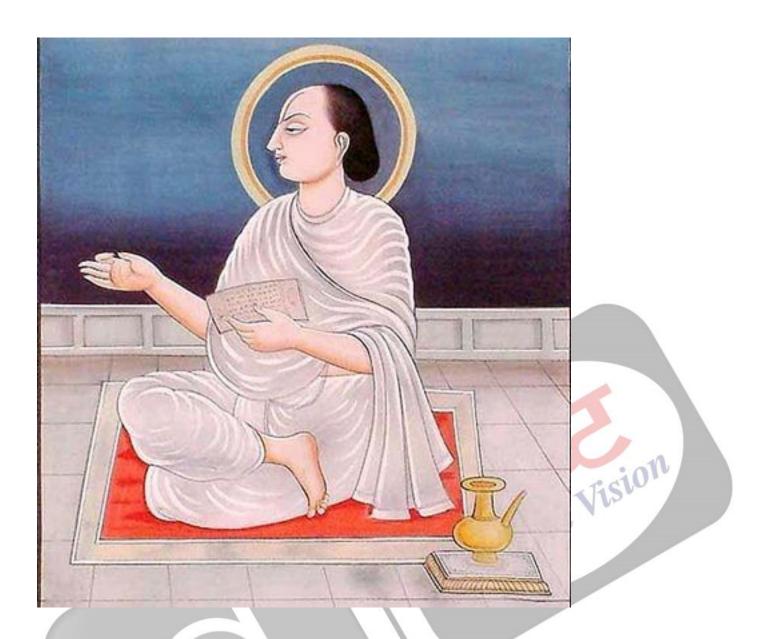
Why in News?

Recently, the Union Home Minister offered prayers at <u>Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya</u> Ashram in Champaran town of Chhattisgarh's Raipur district.

Key Points

- The Union Minister visited Chhattisgarh for security and development meetings in Naxalite-affected areas.
- Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya:
 - Vallabhacharya was a revered figure who had a deep command over the <u>Vedas and</u>
 <u>Upanishads</u>. He was known by the <u>titles Vallabha and Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya</u>.
 - He founded the philosophy of <u>Shuddha Advaita</u> or pure non-dualism. He also founded the <u>Pushti sect of <u>Vaishnavism</u></u>, a <u>Krishna-centric cult in the Braj region</u> of India.
 - He also established the Jagadguru Acharya and the Guru of the Pushti Marg bhakti school after developing his own interpretation of the Vedanta philosophy.
 - He was born in the year 1479 AD in Champaran town of Chhattisgarh's Raipur district.





Vedas and Upanishads

Vedas:

- There are four Vedas: Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda, and Atharva Veda.
- The word "Veda" comes from the root "vid," which means "spiritual knowledge" or "subject of knowledge".
- The Vedas were written by Vedic poets and seers called rishis, who used Sanskrit poetry to describe cosmic mysteries.

Upanishads:

- Also called Vedantas, these are the source of Indian philosophy and are usually counted at 108, though there are more than 200 known.
- The word "Upanishads" means "to sit down near (the teacher)," and teachers would often pass them down verbally to their students in the forest.
- The ten main Upanishads are Isha, Kena, Katha, Prashan, Mundaka, Mandukya, Tattiriya, Aitareya, Chhandogya, and Brihadaranyaka.

