



Union Minister Visits Vallabhacharya Ashram

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Home Minister offered prayers at [Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya Ashram](#) in **Champanan 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 [Vedas and Upanishads](#)**. He was known by the **titles Vallabha and Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya.**
 - He **founded the philosophy of [Shuddha Advaita](#) or pure non-dualism.** He also founded the **Pushti sect of [Vaishnavism](#), a Krishna-centric cult in the Braj region 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 Champanan town of Chhattisgarh's Raipur district.**

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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.**

