Samadhi Smriti Mahotsav in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Home Minister addressed the **first Samadhi Smriti Mahotsav of Shri Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj** in Rajnandgaon, **Chhattisgarh.**

Key Points

- **Addressing the Mahotsav:**
  - He also participated in **Shri 1008 Siddhachakra Vidhan Vishwa Shanti Mahayagya.**
  - During the event, the minister released:
    - A commemorative **coin of Rs 100**
    - A special **postal envelope of Rs 5**
    - **108 footprints and portrait** of Acharya Shri Vidyasagar Ji
    - Laid the foundation stone of the proposed **Samadhi Smarak 'Vidyayatan'**
- **Education and Social Development Initiatives:**
  - The minister announced the **foundation stone of a girl's school in Dindori district,** Madhya Pradesh, which will offer **free education, skill development, and employment opportunities.**
- **Role of Jain Saints in National Unity:**
  - The minister acknowledged the contribution of **Jain saints**, who spread the spiritual message from Uttar Pradesh to Karnataka, Bihar to Gujarat.
    - He highlighted that Acharya Ji taught us that India's identity is deeply rooted in its culture.
  - Acharya Ji wrote **the Hindi epic 'Mookmati,'** which has been translated into many languages and remains a significant work on **philosophy, ethics, spirituality, and the nation.**

Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj

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- Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj was a **highly respected monk in the Jain community,** known for his wisdom and spiritual leadership.
- He **embraced monasticism at a young age** and attained the esteemed title of Acharya, signifying his **deep knowledge and spiritual achievements.**
- He actively worked in the fields of **education, healthcare, environmental protection, and sustainable agriculture.**
- He **encouraged societal progress** and urged people to participate in democratic processes.
- In his final days, he undertook **Sallekhana (a voluntary Jain practice of fasting to death)** and abstained from food and liquids for the last three days of his life.