



## Samadhi Smriti Mahotsav in Chhattisgarh | Chhattisgarh | 08 Feb 2025

### 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.

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## Global United Consciousness Conclave | Madhya Pradesh | 08 Feb 2025

### Why in News?

The three-day **Global United Consciousness Conclave 2025** is being organized in **Ujjain** from **14 to 16 February 2025**. **Thinkers, scholars, spiritual leaders and yogacharyas** from more than 20 countries will participate in the conclave.

### Key Points

- **Objective:**
  - The objective of organizing this conclave is to **establish a culture of peace in the country and the world**.
  - It includes topics like **spirit of unity, welfare, service, spirituality and [yoga](#), ecology, education and [democracy](#), inclusion and participation and [sustainable economy](#)**.
- **Event:**

- The event is being **organised by** United Consciousness, Yoga Vidya-Germany, European Yoga Federation and Akshara Kids Academy-Ujjain at Kalidas Academy.
- The collaborating institutions include **Maharaja Vikramaditya Research Centre, Department of Culture**, Madhya Pradesh Government, **Kalidas Sanskrit Academy and Vikram University**, Ujjain.
- The event is in line with G20 "[One Earth, One Family, One Future](#)" mission and aims to promote peace, stress relief and improve relationships.

▪ **Theme:**

- The key themes of this conclave are:
  - Culture of peace through the spirit of unity
  - A Culture of Peace through Wellness
  - Culture of Peace through the Spirit of Service
  - Culture of Peace through Spirituality and Yoga
  - Culture of Peace through Ecology
  - Culture of Peace through Education and Democracy
  - A culture of peace through inclusion and participation
  - A culture of peace through a sustainable economy

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## United Consciousness

- United Consciousness is a **global initiative of Project Self Inc.**, a [non-profit organization](#) registered in the US and India.
- It aims to **promote universal peace, spiritual enlightenment, spirit of unity and happiness throughout the world.**
- It believes in the power of one consciousness, one existence.

## Uttar Pradesh Inland Waterways Authority | Uttar Pradesh | 08 Feb 2025

### Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government approved the **formation of 'Uttar Pradesh Inland Waterways Authority'** to **promote [water transport](#) and [water tourism](#)** in the state.

### Key Points

#### ▪ Uttar Pradesh Inland Waterways Authority:

- Its objective is to **promote water transport** by developing waterways, which will **reduce pressure on road and rail networks**.
- Major cities situated along the **banks of the Ganga River** and other waterways hold significant potential for **water tourism development**.
- **Structure:**
  - The Authority will be **headed by a Minister of Transport** or an **expert in Waterways, Shipping, Navigation, Ports and Maritime Affairs** nominated by **the Chief Minister**.
    - The Vice-Chairman will be appointed by the State Government.
    - A **representative nominated by the Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** will also be its member.
    - The **Transport Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh** will be the Chief Executive Officer of this Authority.

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#### ▪ Waterways in Uttar Pradesh:

- It is notable that **111 national waterways** have been **declared in the country**, of which **Uttar Pradesh has a total of 11 national waterways** including **Ganga** and **Yamuna**.

#### Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

- IWAI is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Shipping** .
- It was constituted under the **IWAI Act, 1985** by the Indian Parliament.
- Its **headquarter is** located in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**. While **regional offices** are in **Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati and Kochi** and **sub-offices in Pra**

## Lakhisarai Museum | Bihar | 08 Feb 2025

### Why in News?

On 6 February 2025, the **Chief Minister of Bihar inaugurated** the **Lakhisarai Museum** built at a cost of Rs 35.8 crores .

### Key Points

▪ **About Lakhisarai Museum:**

- This is the **second largest museum** of Bihar.
- The **ancient statues, inscriptions, pottery, Buddhist stupas and precious stones** recovered from excavations in various areas of Lakhisarai district which were kept at **Ashokdham temple** and other places will now be preserved in this museum.
- It will promote **tourism**, which will help people know the history and culture of the state and will **benefit the local economy**.
- The museum can help in **showcasing the cultural and historical importance of Lakhisarai**.

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## Lakhisarai District

- The district was **established on 3 July 1994**. Earlier Lakhisarai was a subdivision in Munger district.
- Some of the important temples and religious places within the district are **Ashokdham, Bhagawati Temple of Barhiya, Shringi Rishi, Jalappa Sthan, Abhaynath Sthan, Abhipur Mountain, Maharani Sthan of Abhipur, Govind Baba Sthan (Mandap) Rampur and Durga Sthan Lakhisarai etc.**
- Lakhisarai is bordered by Munger, Sheikhpura, Begusarai and Patna on the east, south, west and north.