



# Adi Shankaracharya

## Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister has unveiled a **12-foot statue of Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath (Uttarakhand)**.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:



- Known as **Adi Shankara**, born 11<sup>th</sup> May 788 AD, at Kaladi near Kochi, Kerala.
  - Took Samadhi at the age of 33, at Kedar tirth.
- **He was a devotee of Shiva.**
- 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 **Shingeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath- for propagation of Sanathana Dharma**.

### ▪ 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.

**Source: IE**

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