

## Shyamji Krishna Varma

*Prelims: Current events of national importance | Modern Indian History*

### Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India has paid homage to Shyamji Krishna Varma on his death anniversary.

- **Shyamji Krishna Verma** - He was a Revolutionary freedom fighter who operated mainly from Europe.
- **Early life & Education**
  - He was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1857, at Mandvi ( in Gujarat State ) to a poor Bhanushali family.
  - He excelled in Sanskrit and English, and later became the first Indian M.A. at Oxford University.
  - He married Bhanumati in 1875, the daughter of a wealthy Bombay merchant.
  - He practised law as an Advocate of the Bombay High Court after returning from Oxford and served as a minister in several princely states.
- **Influenced by** - He was greatly influenced by Swami Dayanand Saraswati and became the first President of Bombay Arya Samaj.
- **Advocacy** - He supported both non-cooperation and, if necessary, armed struggle against colonial rule.
- **Revolutionary Contributions**
  - Founded the Indian Home Rule Society in London in 1905 to campaign against British domination.
  - Established the India House in London, a hub for Indian students and revolutionaries in 1905.
  - Published 'The Indian Sociologist', a radical English monthly journal for spreading nationalist ideas.
  - Advocated Swaraj (Self-Rule) long before it became mainstream.
- **Influence on Revolutionaries**
  - Mentored and supported V.D. Savarkar, Lala Hardayal, V.V.S. Iyer, and Biren Chattopadhyay.
  - Inspired Madam Bhikhaiji Cama and others to intensify independence activities.
  - Later, he shifted to Paris due to political pressure in London, continued activism in Paris and later Geneva.
- **Death** - He died on 31 March 1930 in Paris; his ashes were later repatriated to India after independence.
- A memorial called Kranti Teerth dedicated to him was built and inaugurated in 2010 near Mandvi.

- **Legacy** - He was the first Indian leader to demand complete independence from British rule, whose intellectual activism and visionary efforts laid the foundation for later nationalist movements by bridging thought with action.

## References

1. [PIB | Shyamji Krishna Varma](#)
2. [KSKVKU | Shyamji Krishna Verma](#)
3. [Bhanu Samaj | Shyamji Krishna Verma](#)

