



# Shyamji Krishna Varma

## Why in News

The Prime Minister paid tributes to **revolutionary freedom fighter Shyamji Krishna Varma** on his birth anniversary (4<sup>th</sup> October).

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## Key Points

- Shyamji Krishna Varma was **born** on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1857 **in Mandvi town of Kachchh district of Gujarat.**
- He was **an expert in Sanskrit and other languages.**
  - His deep knowledge of the Sanskrit language caught the attention of **Monier Williams, a professor of the subject in Oxford University.**
- He was inspired by **Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Swami Dayanand Saraswati** and **Herbert Spencer.**
- He **founded the Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist** in London.
  - Indian Home Rule Society and the India House worked towards **inspiring youngsters in Britain** to take up revolutionary activities against their own representatives in India.
  - The monthly Indian Sociologist became an outlet for **nationalist ideas and through the Indian Home Rule Society**, he criticised the British rule in India.
- Varma became the **first President of Bombay Arya Samaj.** He **inspired Veer Savarkar** who was a member of India House in London. Verma also served as the **Divan of a number of states** in India.
  - Swami Dayanand Saraswati was the founder of the Hindu reform organisation Arya Samaj.
- He was a **barrister in London**, when in 1905, he was barred from practising law by the Inner Temple following **charges of sedition** for writing against the colonial government.

- The move was significant as the **Honourable Society of the Inner Temple** is one of the **four professional associations for barristers** and judges in London.
- He was **posthumously reinstated by the Inner Temple in 2015** after the Inn's governing council noted that Varma "did not receive an entirely fair hearing".
- In the face of criticism by the British, Varma **shifted his base from England to Paris** and continued his movement.
- After the outbreak of the **First World War (1914-18)**, however, he **moved to Geneva in Switzerland** and spent the rest of his life there. He died on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1930.

**Source: PIB**

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