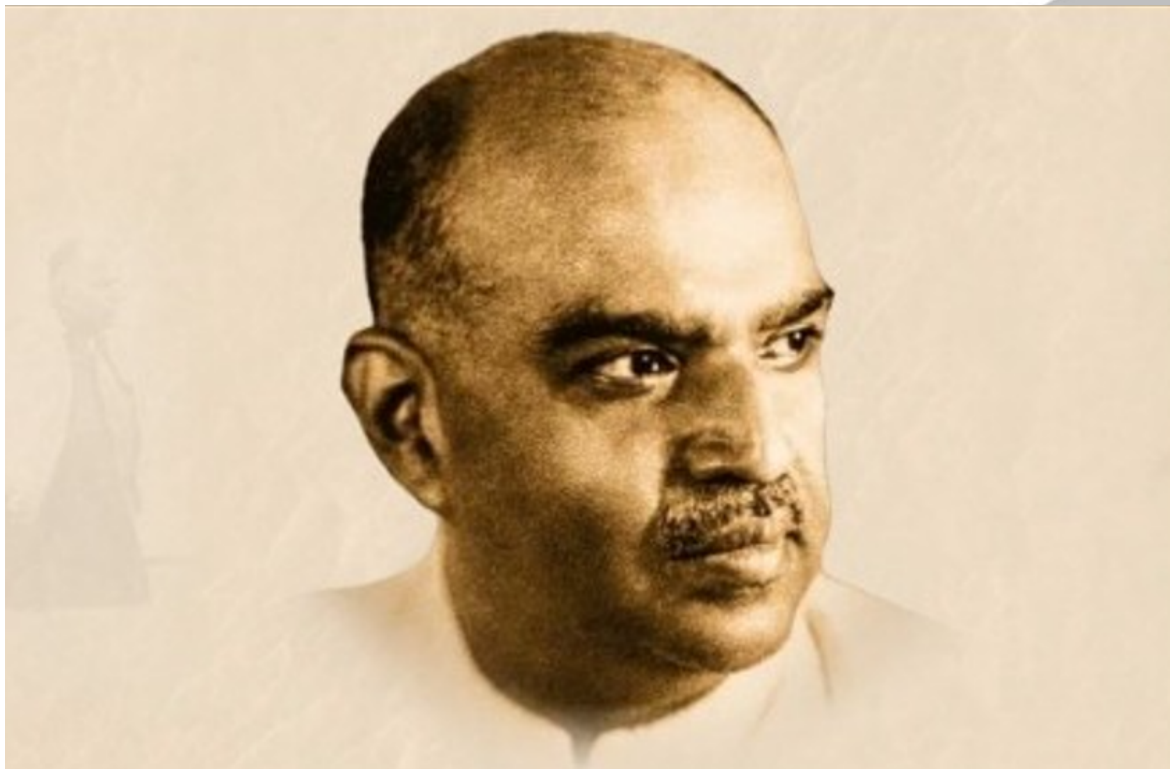




# Birth Anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee

## Why in News?

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai paid **tribute to [Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his birth anniversary](#)**.



## Key Points

- **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:**
  - **Early Life and Achievements:**
    - Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was **born on 6th July 1901** into a prominent Bengali family in Calcutta.
    - At age 33, he became the **youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University (1934-1938)**.
    - Introduced progressive reforms and actively contributed to academic bodies like the [Asiatic Society of Calcutta](#), the [Indian Institute of Science \(Bangalore\)](#), and the Inter-University Board.
    - He started "**Bang Wani**", a **Bengali journal**, in **1922** and **The Nationalist** in the **1940s**.
  - **Political Career:**
    - He was **elected to the Bengal Legislative Council as a Congress candidate** representing Calcutta University.
    - He resigned from the Council when the Congress Party decided to boycott the

legislature, and later won the seat again as an independent candidate.

- During the **Krishak Praja Party-Muslim League coalition government (1937-1941)**, he served as the Leader of the Opposition, voicing strong nationalist concerns.
- **Post Independence:**
  - **Ministerial Role:**
    - He joined the Progressive Coalition Ministry headed by Fazlul Haq as the Finance Minister, but he resigned within a year due to ideological and political differences.
    - He later emerged as a prominent Hindu voice in Bengal politics, joined the [Hindu Mahasabha](#), and was elected its President in 1944, marking a significant shift in his political journey.
    - After the [assassination of Mahatma Gandhi](#), Dr. Mookerjee advocated for the Hindu Mahasabha to expand its role beyond religious boundaries and engage in broader national service.
    - He opposed the organisation's decision to remain apolitical and, as a result, **resigned from the Hindu Mahasabha** on 23rd November 1948.
  - **Stance on the Partition of Bengal:**
    - He **supported the partition of Bengal, 1946** and advocated to create a separate **Hindu-majority state, West Bengal, within India**, ensuring the **safety and rights of Bengali Hindus**.
  - **Role in Central Governance:**
    - He joined Pandit [Nehru's Interim Cabinet](#) as the Minister for Industry and Supply, contributing to early **post-Independence industrial policy**.
    - He resigned from the Cabinet on 6th April 1950, in protest against the **Delhi Pact with Liaquat Ali Khan**, expressing strong concerns over the treatment of minorities in East Pakistan.
  - **Founding of Bharatiya Jana Sangh:**
    - After consulting [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh \(RSS\)](#) chief Guru Golwalkar, he founded the [Bharatiya Jana Sangh](#), modern day **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**, on **21st October 1951 in Delhi**.
    - He **became its first President**. The party won three [Lok Sabha](#) seats in 1952, including his own.
    - Formed the [National Democratic Party](#) in Parliament, though it lacked official recognition.
  - **Stand on Kashmir and Article 370:**
    - He **strongly opposed Article 370**, describing it as a move that could lead to the Balkanisation of India and threaten national unity.
    - He **criticised Shaikh Abdullah's three-nation theory** and led a [Satyagraha movement](#) in collaboration with the Hindu Mahasabha and Ram Rajya Parishad to demand the removal of Article 370.
    - On 11th May 1953, he was arrested while attempting to enter Jammu and Kashmir without a permit, and **he died in custody on 23rd June 1953**, under controversial circumstances.